

May 14-15, 1998
Elton John splits from manager
LONDON (AFP) — Pop star Elton John has decided to split from his manager and manager's wife, Jeanie, after a stormy row between them. The London-based manager, who had been credited as the man behind the young singer's legendary success, was a world-renowned pianist and a successful businessman with a track record of serving as a mentor to several young artists. The split was confirmed by the report.

Ray Charles & 1998 Hanky win 1998 Polar Music Prize
STOCKHOLM (AP) — King of the Blues, Ray Charles, won the 1998 Polar Music Prize, one of the most prestigious awards in the music world. The prize was presented to him by the Swedish Academy of Music. Charles, who has been blind since childhood, has won several other major awards, including the Grammy and the Nobel Peace Prize. He is known for his soulful music and his ability to transcend racial and cultural boundaries.

one of Britain's most eligible bachelors gets married
LONDON (AP) — One of Britain's most eligible bachelors, Prince Andrew, has finally found a wife. He married Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, in a ceremony at St. Mark's Church in Scotland. The couple has been together for several years and have two children. The wedding was a highly publicized event, with many celebrities in attendance.

William returns to his Opera Ball
LONDON (AP) — Prince William, Duke of Cambridge, has returned to his duties at the Royal Opera House. He was seen at the opening of the season, where he performed alongside his wife, Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge. The couple has been a regular presence at the opera, and their support has helped to raise the profile of the institution.

Miss prisoners fight fading mood
LONDON (AP) — Miss prisoners, who have been held in custody for several months, are fighting a fading mood. They are being held in a facility where they are not allowed to see their families or receive visitors. The prisoners are being held in a facility that is known for its harsh conditions and lack of basic amenities. The prisoners are being held in a facility that is known for its harsh conditions and lack of basic amenities.

Strour, Algerian counterpart discuss ties

ALGIERS (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'ad Hayel Strour on Friday held talks with his Algerian counterpart, Abdul Qader Ben Saleh, on the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations. Mr. Strour stressed Jordan's readiness for cooperation with Algeria in various respects. He also reasserted Jordan's rejection of all forms of terrorism, pointing to the Kingdom's belief in rational dialogue and the principles of Shura.

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Jordan warns of escalation Palestinians bury their dead but new flare-up of violence averted

AMMAN, GAZA (Agencies) — Jordan slammed on Friday the killing of eight "innocent" Palestinians by Israeli forces and called on Israel to avert an imminent escalation in tension. "The huge loss and bloodshed will lead to an escalation in clashes and violence and the failure of efforts for peace," said the government's official spokesman, quoted by the Jordanian press.

Those killed were "innocent" and taking part in "peaceful marches," he said.

"The government expresses its extreme sadness and grief at the fall of the Palestinian martyrs and calls on the Israeli side to deal with this matter with all the necessary wisdom to avoid an escalation," the spokesman added.

Palestinians buried their dead on Friday as a combination of Israeli warnings and efforts by Palestinian officials averted a new flare-up of violence after nine Arabs were killed in clashes with Israeli soldiers.

Over 1,000 Palestinians turned out for a national funeral in Gaza City for Zalem Al Waheidi, an ambulance medic shot dead by Israeli soldiers during mass protests on Thursday marking the 50th anniversary of Israel's creation.

After prayers over the body in a mosque, a procession of 100 cars and jeeps from security forces, decked out with Palestinian flags and photos of Waheidi, headed with the body to Gaza "martyrs' cemetery for burial, witnesses said.

The Israeli army meanwhile deployed tanks on the border with Gaza and warned of a sharp response if a new round of violence erupted after the clashes Thursday between soldiers and thousands of Palestinian protesters in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

But Friday, calls for calm were largely heeded in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, except for Hebron, where several hundred stone-throwing youths clashed with Israeli soldiers, who responded with rubber-coated metal bullets.

An Israeli photographer was seriously wounded in the stomach by a rubber bullet and was undergoing surgery in a Jerusalem hospital. Two other protesters were slightly hurt.

Palestinian police tried in vain to stop the stone-throwers and the clashes lasted for several hours.

In Jerusalem during prayers at the Al Aqsa mosque in the Old City, a few youths threw stones at Jews at the Wall below, but Al Aqsa officials quickly forced them to stop.

Israeli soldiers cleared the Jewish worshippers from the site but they did not take action against the stone-throwers, witnesses said.

The Israeli army commander in the Gaza Strip, Yoav Galant, warned of a heavy response if unrest continued for a second day.

"If the Palestinians choose the path of violence, they must pay the price for their actions," he said on Thursday.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat meanwhile slammed Israel's repression of the demonstrations on Thursday and warned that Israel was "pushing the whole area, not only Palestine," towards an explosion of violence.

He blamed the Israeli army for sparking violence during Thursday's massive marches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, called by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to mark the 50th anniversary of the Nakbe, the "catastrophe."

He accused army snipers of intentionally killing eight Palestinians who the Palestinian health ministry said died in the clashes after being shot in head. They were buried quietly on Thursday, according to the Palestinian news agency Wafa.

A 22-year-old Palestinian man died Friday 24 hours after being shot by Israeli troops in widespread clashes which also left eight other Palestinians dead, hospital officials said.

Israeli Shuhada had been declared clinically dead late Thursday but was maintained on an artificial life support system until Friday, doctors said.

He was shot in the eye Thursday by Israeli soldiers during stone-throwing protests by residents of the Qalandia refugee camp in Arab east Jerusalem to mark Israel's 50th anniversary.

"Israeli measures, particularly the snipers, are the cause of what happened. This use of snipers is a barbaric act on the part of some of the soldiers and the snipers," Mr. Arafat told journalists.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was visiting the United States this week for talks on U.S. proposals to break the long deadlock in the peace process, accused the PNA of fomenting the violence as a "pressure tactic" to influence the peace talks.

"They promised to stop this incitement of propaganda for violence," which he said had led to "tragic" loss of life, the Israeli premier said.

Israeli and Palestinian analysts meanwhile said Israel's stern rejection of U.S. peace proposals was likely to fuel further violence. "More outbreaks of violence can be expected if Israel persists in its refusal to honour its commitments, notably concerning further withdrawals from the West Bank," said Yossi Beilin, an opposition Labour Party leader and key architect of the Oslo peace accords.

Sari Nusseibeh, the rector of Al Quds University just outside Arab east Jerusalem, agreed.

"New excesses are inevitable, given the popular frustration" over the peace process, he said.

Rabbis order manhunt for stabber

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Rabbis on Friday ordered their followers to help police track down suspects who stabbed six Palestinians in an ultra-Orthodox Jewish neighborhood of Jerusalem over the past three months.

In the latest attack on Wednesday, a 51-year-old Palestinian man was killed. The earlier stabbings ended in injuries.

The rabbinical court of the ultra-Orthodox community in Jerusalem's Mea Shearim neighbourhood issued a "judgment on a persecutor," known in Hebrew as a "Din Rodeh," against the unidentified assailants.



MOURNING THEIR FATHER: The sons of Zalem Al Waheidi, 51, look at their dead father's body, wrapped in a Palestinian flag, in Gaza City Friday. The ambulance medic was shot dead by Israeli soldiers during mass protests on Thursday marking the 50th anniversary of Israel's creation (AFP photo)

After 'no progress' in Washington Netanyahu holds talks with Annan in New York

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived at U.N. headquarters Friday for talks with U.N. chief Kofi Annan overshadowed by violence in the occupied territories.

Moments before the Israeli premier entered the building, Mr. Annan issued a statement saying he was "deeply disturbed" by the deaths of nine Palestinians in violence on Thursday linked to Israel's 50th anniversary.

Mr. Annan urged "maximum restraint" by both Israelis and Palestinians, saying that the latest flareup underscored the need for a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

Mr. Netanyahu is expected to brief the U.N. chief on his inconclusive Washington talks with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

But their midday meeting is expected to focus mainly on Israeli proposals to withdraw from southern Lebanon, where the United Nations maintains a 20-year-old peacekeeping force of 4,500 soldiers.

"I think he [Annan] wants to listen to the prime minister of Israel, to get a more detailed sense of what Israel's plans are concerning southern Lebanon," said Mr. Annan spokesman Fred Eckhardt.

Mr. Eckhardt added that Mr. Annan would tell Mr. Netanyahu that "he feels that there can't be peace in the region without Syria and the other nations of the region involved."

Syria and Lebanon have rejected Israel's April 1 offer to implement U.N. Resolution 425 providing for a withdrawal of Israeli troops from southern Lebanon, where Israel maintains a border "security zone" aided by an Israeli-backed militia.

They say that the Israeli offer contains unacceptable conditions and should take place in the context of an overall settlement, including an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The Israeli leader did not comment to reporters as he entered the U.N. building amid tight security.

Mr. Netanyahu, who got on well with Mr. Annan during the U.N. chief's visit to Israel in

March, asked for Friday's meeting and was holding private talks with the secretary general before they lunch together.

Officials said Mr. Annan would handle the sensitive issue of an Israeli withdrawal with great caution, after being criticised by Syria and Lebanon for welcoming Israel's offer to pull out and saying that "discussions" would be needed.

U.N. Resolution 425, adopted in 1978, calls on Israel to "withdraw forthwith its forces from all Lebanese territory," taken to mean that the Israeli pullout should be unconditional.

Mr. Annan has set up a working group within the peacekeeping department to study possible implications for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

But Mr. Eckhardt said at a news briefing Friday that the secretary general would not take a "leading diplomatic role" on the issue.

An intensive effort by Ms. Albright to reopen peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians ended without a breakthrough Thursday.

However, the Israeli prime minister said that he has identified what territory Israel can safely give up and probably will make concessions to reach an accord.

Mr. Netanyahu said Israel would not yield land in ways that threaten the country's security, and he vowed never to agree to the establishment of a Palestinian state or to yield part of Jerusalem.

"We have determined which of those areas we can disengage from," the Israeli prime minister said in a speech Thursday night to the American Jewish Committee.

Lower-level American and Israeli specialists were directed by Ms. Albright and Mr. Netanyahu to keep trying to fashion an agreement.

With Israeli officials saying no agreement was reached on any of the difficult issues, including how much territory Israel would relinquish on the West Bank, the Clinton administration seemed to have suffered at least a temporary foreign policy setback.

"There is no agreement yet on the issues that were discussed," said Gadi Baltiansky, the Israeli

Embassy spokesman. "But they continue to be discussed," he said.

Ms. Albright's spokesman, James Rubin, said: "We do have sufficient reason to continue serious work." He said Ms. Albright had ended direct talks with Mr. Netanyahu and would fly to London this weekend to join U.S. President Bill Clinton in meetings with European leaders.

"It is hard to be optimistic," Mr. Rubin said after Ms. Albright completed an 80-minute meeting Thursday with Mr. Netanyahu at a hotel a few blocks from the White House. It was their second session in two days, as the Clinton administration struggled to end a 15-month stalemate in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians over the future of the contested West Bank.

In Eisenach, Germany, where he kept long-distance watch over the difficult U.S. foreign policy initiative, Mr. Clinton was downbeat.

"I hope before I leave office that we will have secured a peace agreement in the Middle East that will last for a long time," he said before the talks concluded.

The biggest stumbling block was a U.S. proposal that Mr. Netanyahu relinquish an additional 13 per cent of the territory to the Palestinian National Authority.

Mr. Netanyahu delegated Danny Naveh, the Israeli cabinet secretary, Yitzhak Molcho, the prime minister's legal adviser, to hold the continuing talks with U.S. officials here.

Before their meeting, Mr. Netanyahu telephoned Ms. Albright and urged her to call Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and advise him that Thursday's violence in Gaza could only have a detrimental effect on the peace process.

Mr. Rubin said Ms. Albright called Mr. Arafat "to express her concern and regret about the death of the Palestinians" in the turmoil. She also urged restraint on both sides.

The U.S. spokesman, reflecting on the lack of a breakthrough again, said, "It is a problem of substantive differences" but that Mr. Netanyahu "is negotiating in good faith."

Government condemns attack on Al Aqsa

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordan condemned the Thursday attack on Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem as an outrageous act, and held Israel responsible for the consequences. The attack burnt down Al Aqsa's Ghawanmah gate, one of the main gates leading to the Islamic shrine.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, in a statement Thursday, said the Israeli government bears the responsibility for protecting the Islamic and Christian holy places in Jerusalem, noting that the attack was not the first of its kind to be perpetrated by Israeli extremists against

the holy shrine.

Arsonists were reported to have set fire to a wooden gate leading into Al Aqsa mosque compound in Arab east Jerusalem before dawn Thursday, causing damage but no injuries.

Dr. Majali said what has happened in Jerusalem contravenes the Jordan-Israel peace treaty of 1994, especially with regard to the holy places, adding that the present deadlock in the peace process is bound to tempt extremist elements to commit further aggressive actions against the holy places.

There can be no alternative to the fulfilment of the

peace accords and their implementation, as this will deny the extremist elements a chance to harm the feelings of Arabs and Muslims or commit acts of aggression against their holy shrines, the Prime Minister stressed.

For his part, Acting Minister of Information Nasser Lawzi said that the Jordanian government received with deep regret the news about the outrageous act against the third most sacred shrine for Muslims.

The Israeli arsonists burnt the Al Ghawanmah gate by throwing an explosive

(Continued on page 7)

Anani, Musa discuss peace impasse, economic relations

CAIRO (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister for Development Affairs and Foreign Minister Jawad Anani on Friday started an official visit to Egypt where he will deliver a verbal message from His Majesty King Hussein to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on bilateral relations, the latest developments in the peace process and issues of common concern.

Dr. Anani said upon arrival that Jordan and Egypt enjoy strong and distinguished relations.

He added that he will review

with his Egyptian counterpart, Amr Musa, the critical stage the peace process is passing through.

In reply to a question on the latest incidents in Palestine, Dr. Anani said that the government has issued a statement condemning the bloodshed of Palestinians as well as the attack on Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, pointing out that this is due to Israel's intransigence and non-commitment to the signed agreements with Palestinians.

Mr. Musa welcomed the visit saying that the peace

process is passing through a critical stage which "incites us to increase the level of coordination and cooperation."

He added that the visit also aims to promote bilateral cooperation in economic fields.

Accompanying Dr. Anani is Minister of Trade, Industry and Supply Hani Mulki, who said that trade exchange between Jordan and Egypt is on the rise, and that the higher joint Jordanian-Egyptian ministerial committee has achieved a lot in the last few years.

Cotti in Amman today to bolster ties, discuss Middle East peace

By Francesca Ciriaci with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Swiss President Flavio Cotti is expected here today for talks with His Majesty King Hussein on regional issues and ways to strengthen already friendly bilateral ties, according to a Royal Court statement issued on Thursday.

Mr. Cotti's visit to Jordan, at the invitation of King Hussein and Her Majesty Queen Noor, comes as part of a four-day Mid-East tour including the Palestinian self-rule areas and Israel.

Mr. Cotti, who is also foreign minister, held talks with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat late Friday on bilateral relations and the stalled Middle East peace process.

Mr. Arafat's aide Nabil Rudeineh was quoted by news agencies as saying that the two leaders discussed "the latest developments in the peace process with Israel, which has

been put in dangerous straits by Israeli measures."

Today, Queen Noor and Mr. Cotti are scheduled to inaugurate the excavated "sig" or entrance: of the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, following the conclusion of a major restoration project (See story on page 3).

News agencies quoted Bern's federal foreign affairs department as saying that the purpose of Mr. Cotti's visit was the "boosting Swiss support for the peace process and strengthening ties with the most important partners in the Middle East."

Peace talks on the Palestinian-Israeli track have been stalled since last March, when the Likud-led government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave the green light for construction works for a Jewish settlement in Arab east Jerusalem.

Agence France Presse (AFP) news agency described Mr. Cotti's visit to Israel on

Sunday as "the longest and most delicate part of his trip."

Swiss-Israeli relations became strained in February, after Swiss police arrested an Israeli spy after attempting to install telephone bugging equipment as part of a Mossad operation against a supporter of the Muslim Shiite resistance party, Hizbollah.

Israel apologised for the botched operation and Bern released the Mossad agent in late April.

Another thorny issue in bilateral relations remains Israel's criticism of Swiss banks and institutions for allegedly keeping Jewish assets deposited by Holocaust victims during World War II.

U.S.-based Jewish groups have accused Switzerland of restricting access to Jews fleeing Nazi persecution, dealing in gold looted by the Nazis, and maintaining business and banking relationships with the Third Reich.

Suspects in car bombings reenact crimes

By Tareq Ayyoub Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Suspects, who allegedly confessed to masterminding a series of bombings in Amman last month, reenacted their crimes in front of police investigators.

The Arab daily Al Dustour said that the suspects, seven Jordanians, reenacted the planting of a fire-bomb in the parking lot of a four-star hotel in Amman and near the house of former Public Intelligence Department chief, Mohammed Rasoul Kilani.

The daily did not name its sources, but added that the reenactment was attended by Lieutenant Colonel Mahmoud Obeidat and Captain Mahmoud Hiyasat from the State Security Court, where the sus-

pects will be tried.

On Sunday, Acting Information Minister Naser Lawzi said that eight suspects were involved in the five bombings, and that the eighth suspect, of unspecified Arab nationality, remains at large.

The eight suspects allegedly admitted that they planted local-made bombs at the Modern American School, the Highway Patrol headquarters, under a car belonging to Mr. Kilani, in a garbage container near the house of former interior minister, Jawdat Shoul, and in the Jerusalem International Hotel parking lot. None of the bombings resulted in injuries.

Mr. Lawzi said that the eight were members of a "fundamentalist" group, which he didn't name. The minister

added that they were funded and instructed from abroad.

The weekly tabloid Shihan said that Samer Ismail Amer, a student of engineering and chemistry at the University of Sciences and Technology, holds a Brazilian passport.

The weekly quoted his family as saying that they have notified the Brazilian embassy in Amman "who submitted a memo to the foreign ministry demanding an explanation for Mr. Amer's arrest."

Shihan also said that one of the suspects, Khalid Tawfeeq Amin, was a corporal, working at the Highway Patrols.

The Agence France Presse said that the eighth suspect linked to the bombings is Egyptian, and was financed by a Jordanian of Palestinian origin living in the United States.

Palestinians call for international action to prevent more violence

RAMALLAH (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority appealed on Thursday night for international action to prevent the Middle East exploding into violence, following a day of clashes in which eight Palestinians were killed and hundreds more injured by Israeli troops.

"The international forces concerned by peace in the Middle East must react immediately before it is too

late to put a stop to Israeli intransigence which is pushing the region towards a general conflagration," the Palestinian cabinet warned at the end of its weekly meeting in Ramallah.

The cabinet, headed by the authority's president, Yasser Arafat, said the Israeli army's bloody repression Thursday of Palestinian demonstrators in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank "will not lessen

our people's determination to liberate their land whatever the sacrifices."

The Palestinian cabinet observed a minute's silence in honour of the "nine martyrs of this heinous crime" and the "more than 400 injured," warning that "all options remain open" for the future.

"Our people will react with strength and determination to a failure of the peace process," Mr. Arafat's government said in a com-

munique.

The cabinet urged Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to "return now to reason and wisdom before it is too late," urging him to "implement the accords signed at the White House" in September 1993.

The communiqué said Mr. Netanyahu's government "is wrong if it believes that the policy of repression and settlement will guarantee security and peace for Israel."

Palestinian police release photographer

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian photographer who human rights activists say was severely beaten in detention has been released from a Palestinian jail.

Abbas Moumami, who works as a freelance photographer for the Reuters news agency, was evasive Friday when asked whether he was tortured.

Mr. Moumami told the

Associated Press in a telephone interview that he was "in good health." Mr. Moumami said he was told Thursday evening by his jailers in the West Bank town of Ramallah that he was free to go, but was not given further explanations.

"I was not told I would be asked to come back for any further questioning," Mr. Moumami said.

The Reuters bureau chief

in Jerusalem, Paul Holmes, said he was informed by Palestinian officials that no charges would be filed against Mr. Moumami.

Mr. Moumami was arrested May 5 in connection with a videotape in which the Islamist group Hamas accused the Palestinian National Authority of involvement in the mysterious death of the group's chief bomb-maker,

Mohieddine Sharif. Reuters obtained the videotape and broadcast it in April.

An international watchdog group, the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders, alleged in a letter to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat that Mr. Moumami was "beaten black and blue with electric cables and deprived of food and sleep" during his detention.



HEBRON UNREST: A masked Palestinian Friday burns an Israeli flag on a pile of burning tyres, while another aims a pistol during clashes with Israeli troops in Hebron. Unrest broke out in the West Bank and Arab east Jerusalem a day after Israeli troops shot dead eight Palestinians in violent demonstrations marking 50 years of the 'nakbeh,' or 'the catastrophe' (Reuters photo)

Muslim officials accuse Jewish extremists of Al Aqsa arson

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — One of seven wooden gates leading to Islam's third holiest shrine was partially destroyed by fire early Thursday, and Muslim officials blamed Jewish extremists.

Israeli police confirmed that the door was damaged by arson, but said they had no suspects. Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, meanwhile, insisted the crime was committed by "extremist Jewish settlers."

"This is a deliberate and planned attack against our holy site... by extremist settlers who firebombed the door," said Mr. Arafat.

The Bab Al Ghawanma gate is one of seven doors encircling the Al Aqsa Mosque compound that houses the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques. The most revered site of Judaism, the Western

Wall, runs alongside the complex.

When Israel occupied the Muslim holy sites in the 1967 Mideast war, Muslim clerics retained far-reaching autonomy in the Al Aqsa complex, and under an informal arrangement with Israeli officials, Jews were barred from praying at the site.

In the past, Jewish extremists have repeatedly tried to get into the mosque complex, known to Jews as the Temple Mount. The extremists want Israel to raze the mosques and rebuild the temple.

After the burning of the gate was discovered Thursday morning, several dozen Muslim clerics and Palestinian National Authority officials marched from the Dome of the Rock to the site of the fire, chanting: "This is our mosque, not their temple."

India tests pose threat to Israel — analyst

INDIA'S NUCLEAR tests could indirectly pose a threat to Israel, according to Haifa University security specialist Gabriel Ben-Dor.

"I think this is very bad for Israel from several points of view," said Mr. Ben-Dor, head of the university's National Security Studies Programme. "First, it raises the question of punitive U.S. action against India which might, in the future, be considered a precedent for similar action against Israel."

Mr. Ben-Dor noted that Israel, like India, has not signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"Second, and this is even more significant, the Indian tests are likely to give momentum to the Pakistani nuclear programme and give it more legitimacy," he said. "This is certainly bad

from our point of view, because the Pakistani nuclear programme is supposed to be the source of the so-called Islamic bomb.

"This in turn might become accessible, one way or another at a large stage, to various Islamic and Arab countries, including Iran. There is really no need to explain why this would be bad for us."

"From these two perspectives, the nuclear tests conducted by India are bad news, quite apart from the instability that this is likely to cause in Asia itself."

Mr. Ben-Dor added that Pakistan is likely to give its own nuclear programme national priority "no matter what the cost," unless extremely strong action is taken against India.

From the Jerusalem Post

Rights group calls on U.N. to urge Israel to meet convention obligations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Human Rights Watch yesterday called on the U.N.'s Committee Against Torture to request that Israel submit a special report detailing its actions to implement its obligations under the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, according to a press release.

"Israel has consistently disregarded the Committee Against Torture's recommendations and continues to use torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment during interrogations of Palestinian detainees," said Hanny Megally, executive director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa Division.

The committee met yesterday in Geneva to discuss Israel's second periodic report to the treaty-monitoring body. In its submission to the com-

mittee, Human Rights Watch noted that Israel's report failed to satisfactorily address serious concerns the committee raised in its previous sessions.

Human Rights Watch said that pending Israeli legislation and court rulings could greatly expand Israel's use of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

The draft General Security Services (GSS) Law allows secret guidelines for interrogation, grants GSS employees immunity from criminal liability, and makes it a criminal offense for any member of the GSS or its Knesset oversight committee to disclose information without authorization.

The draft law concerning handling of suits arising from security force activities severely limits the right of Palestinians to seek compensation for wrongful injury or death caused by Israeli soldiers by blocking

them from bringing civil suits in Israeli courts, the statement said.

"The trend in Israel is toward legislation to shield abusers from responsibility for their actions and punish whistle blowers," said Mr. Megally.

Human Rights Watch also expressed concern that an upcoming ruling by the Israeli High Court of Justice could legalize the use of many interrogation practices which constitute torture. At least one of these practices, violent shaking, is known to have resulted in death.

Human Rights Watch also criticized Israel's use of prolonged administrative detention and hostage-taking. Last year the Israeli Supreme Court authorized the holding of Lebanese prisoners as hostages — despite its admission that the detainees themselves pose no threat to state security.

Hamas leader says Palestine will be 'liberated' in 40 years

CAIRO (AFP) — The spiritual leader of the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas said he expects the Palestinian territories to be "liberated" within 40 years by the next generation of Palestinians.

"I think that in 40 years the next generation will have liberated the country, the people, and the land from Israeli occupation," Sheikh Ahmad Yassin said in an interview Friday with the weekly Egyptian Al-Ahram.

"Within 40 years of the loss of the majority of Palestine [and the creation

of Israel in 1948], a new generation of Palestinians had already made itself known... the generation of the stone, Molotov cocktail, assault rifle and bomb," he said.

Sheikh Yassin was referring to the start of the intifada, or uprising, in the occupied territories in 1987, and to suicide bomb attacks by Hamas members against Israel.

Sheikh Yassin said he was confident of the recovery of Palestinian territory "with the help of God" and predicted that the "mass destruction weapons

stocked" by Israel "will be at the heart of the destruction" of the Jewish state.

"Nobody can stop [the eventual] explosion of these weapons that they maintain in Palestine," he added.

The 61-year-old Sheikh Yassin is currently in Yemen on a regional tour after being freed from an Israeli prison in October.

Hamas, which is fiercely opposed to the peace process, is responsible for the majority of suicide bombings which have killed dozens of Israeli citizens since 1994.

Habash calls for meeting on new Palestinian strategy

DAMASCUS (R) — George Habash, feeling his scepticism about the Israeli-Palestinian peace deal has been vindicated, called on all Palestinian factions to meet abroad to map a new strategy.

Physically weak but mentally as unyielding to Israel as ever, the secretary general of the Popular Front for Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said Palestinian President Yasser Arafat could come to Egypt or Tunisia if he did not want to hold talks in Syria.

"Every Palestinian with a minimum level of responsibility must think in terms of having a national dialogue," the white-haired 71-year-old said in an interview with Reuters.

"The dialogue must include Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Arafat. I demand to have this dialogue out of Palestine. Why not do it in Egypt or Tunisia if Arafat refuses to come to Syria," he said.

The interview was conducted last Saturday for release on the 50th anniversary of Israel's creation, which led to the

continuing Palestinian refugee problem. Mr. Habash said the policies of Israel's ruling Likud Party made a meeting necessary. Likud, elected in 1996, rejected the land-for-peace formula accepted by previous Israeli Premier Shimon Peres.

"Likud refuses to give Arafat even the bits. Peres was ready to give Arafat some bits and he was satisfied with these bits but now Likud closed everything," he said.

The PFLP was among 10 Palestinian groups that rejected the framework for peace between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation agreed in 1993.

The interview took place in Mr. Habash's office in the basement of an old three-storey building in Damascus. The lobby was decorated with old pictures of PFLP guerrillas who died fighting Israel and new pictures of PFLP officials who died recently of illness.

It reflected the fading of an organisation Mr. Habash established in 1968 and

built into a Palestinian power second only to Mr. Arafat's Fateh, with slogans based on Marxist-Leninist "revolutionary violence."

A national hero to many Palestinians, a romantic seeking the impossible to his Palestinian critics and a terrorist to Israelis, Mr. Habash seemed unbowed by the changes that swept away his former Soviet allies. The walls of his office were decorated with two big pictures — one of Lenin and a second of Argentine revolutionary Che Guevara.

"We want violence, we want violence that hurts Israel physically and economically. Israel will not give us any part of Jerusalem and will not give us any of our rights if we do not hurt it physically and economically," Mr. Habash said.

But Mr. Habash — born on April 22, 1927 into a Christian family in the town of Lydda, now the town of Lod that the peace agreement accepts will remain Israeli — admits the military approach is no longer easy.

"The armed struggle from outside Palestine has become very difficult.

"Our military fight is going on secretly inside Palestine," Mr. Habash said.

Mr. Habash who suffered a 1992 stroke that left his right hand paralysed and now needs someone's support to walk, seems to know time is his enemy. "In the coming national congress of PFLP [in June] I will ask all those who love me to vote against electing me secretary general once again."

But asked if he would quit politics, the soft-spoken Mr. Habash suddenly started to strike the arm of the chair with his left hand and said angrily: "No way. My hand is occupied and I was kicked out of Lydda."

"There is a difference between quitting the position and quitting politics. I want to struggle and struggle and struggle and struggle," he said, drops of sweat on his forehead. "And I say to every Palestinian it is his duty to struggle until the return to Palestine."

Hard-liners unleash new campaign against Iranian cleric

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian hard-liners unleashed a new campaign of hostilities against dissident cleric Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri Friday as thousands of people in the central city of Esfahan denounced him as a traitor.

A crowd of up to 30,000 hard-liners responded to a call by Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to rally in Esfahan during weekly Friday prayers and denounce Ayatollah Montazeri — once the designated heir to the republic's late founder Ayatollah

Ruhollah Khomeini — as a traitor to the regime.

"Death to Montazeri, the foreign agent," read one of many placards in Esfahan's city square denouncing Ayatollah Montazeri, who has been under tight police surveillance since November when he criticised Ayatollah Khamenei for dominating political affairs.

Ayatollah Montazeri's supporters, who earlier had issued a call for a peaceful rally Friday in Esfahan, cancelled their demonstra-

tion in face of the new wave of hostility directed at the cleric.

A press statement signed by "the supporters of the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri" had urged his supporters and sympathisers to attend Friday prayers in Esfahan.

But on Thursday, Ayatollah Khamenei issued a stern warning, accusing Ayatollah Montazeri's supporters of "a plot against national security," and calling on Iranians to counter such conspiracies.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 Cartoon — Jonny Quest
15:30 Drama — Wana Be
16:00 Drama — Neighbours
16:30 Doc. — Ocean Wild
17:00 French Programme — "Faut Pas Rever"
18:00 Acapulco Bay
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 French Programme — "Discovery Mag."
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Quiz Show — You Bet Your Life
20:00 Cinema, Cinema
20:30 Prism
21:10 Drama — Sirens
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film — "Moby-Dick"
23:59 Comedy — "Are You Being Served?"
00:30 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:04 Fajr
05:33 (Sunrise) Duha
12:32 Dhuhur
16:32 'Asr
19:30 Maghreb
20:59 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740

Assemblies of God Church Tel.

4632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel.

4623266

Anglican Church Tel.

4624853/4624811

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox

Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church

Tel. 865897

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 5688404

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter

Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la

Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel.

4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweifeh

Tel. 5920146

The Uniate Catholic Church

Tel. 4624757

The English-Language

Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190

Evangelical Free Church Tel.

892679

The Baptist Church Tel.

4628052

The Armenian Catholic

Church Tel. 771331

The Armenian Orthodox

Church Tel. 775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department

of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to

rise gradually with moderate

weather conditions prevailing,

and winds northeasterly moder-

ate. In Aqaba, winds will be

northerly moderate and seas

calm.

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 12/26

Aqaba 20/33

Deserts 11/28

Jordan Valley 18/31

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 30 Aqaba 31 Humidity

readings: Amman 60 percent,

Aqaba 44 percent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Issam Asmar 890504

Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672

Dr. Hafim Hannoun 5674984

Dr. Osama Hussein 5347289

Firas pharmacy 5661912

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 4637055

Natroukh pharmacy 4623672

Al Salam pharmacy 4636730

Yacoub pharmacy 4644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660

Najib pharmacy 53477632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'ammeh 250080

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Nabil Saffarini 901323

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

ry assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs 4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 5680100

J. Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Co. 4636381

RJ Flight Information 44-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 44-53200

AMMAN:

The Arab Centre for Heart and

Special Surgery 5921199

The Islamic, Abdi 5666131/7

Hussein Medical Centre Tel.

5856856

Luzmila 4630195

Khalidi Maternity 4644281/6

Akileh Maternity 4642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362

Malhas, J. Amman 4636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071

Shmeisani Hospital 5669131

University Hospital 5353444

Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9

Al-Ahli, Abdali 5664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3

Al-Bashir 775111/26

Army, Marka 891611/5

Looters kill about 250 in burning Jakarta stores

JAKARTA (AFP) — More than 250 people were killed in fires set by looters in department stores and shopping malls, as stunned residents Friday pulled charred bodies from the burning ruins.

A huge blaze swept through the five-storey Yogya department store in the Klender suburb east of Jakarta late Thursday as looters rampaged through the five-storey building, Red Cross officials said.

"These people fell victim to their own savagery," said a member of staff who identified himself only as Joko at the nearby police station. Most of the dead were believed to be young men, who brought scenes of anarchy to the city with a wave of looting and burnings.

Residents working alongside rescue workers were still pulling the bodies from buildings Friday as charred corpses in black garbage bags were piling up at the Cipto Mangunkusumo hospital.

Wawan, 27, a resident of Jatinegara, said he saw looters had descended on the Yogya store late Thursday. "These young boys, they don't understand anything. They were having fun," he said.

"The police or fire department didn't come at all but I guess if they had come the people would have attacked them."

He said he had pulled out the remains of 20 people from the building.

"The bodies are destroyed, there are only bones left," he said.

A total of 170 bodies from the Klender disaster were laid out Friday, as hospital staff struggled to identify them from bits of uncharred clothing and any documents, an AFP photographer said.

"Family members have started coming in to see if their sons were among the bodies," said I Made Nasar, a physician at one hospital.

"They look for anything recognisable... little pieces from their trousers, belt, buttons, anything."

Rescue workers said they expected to recover more bodies from the Yogya store as so far they had only searched two floors of the building.

A second fire was still smouldering Friday at the Ramayana department store in the northern area of Tanjung Priok, where a group of looters were trapped when a second gang set fire to the building, the Red Cross said.

Rescuers had already dragged at least 54 bodies from burning embers laying them in morgues of two hospitals until relatives could identify them.

A third fire set by looters in the industrial district of Tangerang west of Jakarta, claimed at least 20 lives and the bodies of others were believed to be trapped on the top two floors of the four-storey Ramayana Plaza shopping mall.

In a fourth tragedy police said a fire was still burning at the Jatinegara Plaza, a shopping mall in Jatinegara, also in east Jakarta around three kilometres from Klender.

A spokesman said police did not know how many had died as rescuers had been unable to enter the building, but said people were known to have been trapped inside.

One person was already reported to have died after jumping from the burning building, a hospital doctor said.

The Yogya fire broke out in the early afternoon Thursday, but raged unabated until midnight when

local citizens tried to contain the blaze. A fire department operations chief for east Jakarta Cipto Hadisucipto told AFP they had not attended the scene of the Yogya disaster because it was too dangerous.

Before they could go to any fires Thursday fire officials first had to check the situation with the armed forces because of the mob violence.

"If we had gone without the army, our only defence is our water hoses," he said.

At one place where firefighters turned out, people pelted them with stones and smashed the windows of one of their fire engines.

Elsewhere in the capital fires enveloped hundreds of shops, vehicles, banks and gas stations were set ablaze by looters Thursday.

Mr. Vedrine will also meet the Albanian President Rexhep Meidani, Prime Minister Fatos Nano, who visited Paris in April, and the leader of parliament, Skender Gjinushi.

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Cambodian peace talks fail within minutes; resistance team leaves

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Talks aimed at reintegrating the resistance forces of deposed Cambodian co-Prince Norodom Ranariddh into the government army failed within minutes Friday after the government objected to one of the prince's representatives.

It was not clear when or if the talks would resume but the prince's team left for Thailand Friday afternoon and there was no indication that another meeting was in the works.

The failure of the talks was seen as a blow to a Japanese-sponsored peace plan aimed at letting the prince take part in July's scheduled elections.

The talks ended in less than 10 minutes after the government's chief negotiator General Dam Vuthy said they could not accept Long Sorin, a former diplomat at the Cambodian embassy in Thailand, as part of the prince's team.

"We discussed before that there must not be political or diplomatic representatives at the talks but this morning there was a diplomat and we told General Khan Saveoun that we could accept him," he told reporters. Khan Saveoun is the leader of the resistance negotiating team.

"The meeting this morning is cancelled and we have asked Khan Saveoun to reshuffle his representatives and form a new one with only the military," Gen. Vuthy said.

Other military sources said Phnom Penh was also unhappy that Khan Saveoun was still referring to Prince Ranariddh, who was violently ousted last July, as "First Prime Minister" and "co-commander in chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces."

Powerful Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, who effectively ousted the prince, has also objected to Prince Ranariddh's continued use of the titles, saying parliament replaced him as co-premier shortly after his ousting.

Long Sorin, clearly upset at the controversy engulfing him, said he was only a part of the team because Hun Sen's forces had killed most of the commanders loyal to the prince.

"If all the generals who were killed were still alive, I would not have to come to attend this meeting," he said.

At least seven senior military officials loyal to the prince were among the nearly 100 royalist supporters — many of them soldiers — killed in the aftermath of last year's

fighting, according to human rights groups.

Khan Saveoun released a statement saying that he and resistance commander Nhek Bun Chhay were still committed to the peace process and the Japanese plan. A ceasefire — part of the plan — is now in place but reintegration of the resistance into the army is one of two key steps still unfulfilled.

It has been complicated by the fact that Hun Sen has not agreed to pardons for three of the prince's senior commanders, convicted along with him of illegally importing weapons and colluding with the outlawed Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction to topple the government.

Under international pressure, Hun Sen personally appealed to King Norodom Sihanouk to grant the prince a full pardon. But he has refused to authorise pardons for the generals. Without the pardons, the three generals including Nhek Bun Chhay, have threatened to continue fighting — which could prevent the prince from standing in the election unless he publicly repudiates his army.

Under Cambodian law political parties are not allowed to maintain armies or control their own autonomous zones.

China coal mine blast kills 14

BEIJING (R) — At least 14 people were killed in a gas explosion at a coal mine in southwestern China, a government official and a newspaper said Friday.

Rescue workers had recovered 14 bodies from the Dujiang coal mine in Sichuan province's Dujiangyan city after a cave-in caused by an

explosion Wednesday, a provincial government official said.

More than 10 people were injured and rushed to hospital, he said by telephone.

The cause of the blast was still under investigation, the official said. He declined to give further details.

The Western China Urban daily quoted a relative of one of the victims as saying there were more than 40 miners in the pit at the time of the explosion.

Accidents in Chinese coal mines killed more than 2,000 miners last year, up nearly 30 per cent from the previous year, local media have said.

N. Korea refuses to hand over remains of UNC soldiers

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea Friday refused to hand over what are believed to be remains of two U.S. soldiers killed during the Korean war, a United Nations Command (UNC) spokesman said.

"They did not show up," he said, adding that the UNC was requesting an explanation over the failed handover, which was scheduled for the Panmunjom border twice village early Friday.

"Efforts will be undertaken through a variety of channels to address the situation. We expect the North Koreans to honour their commitments, especially in regard to this humanitarian issue," a UNC statement said.

The remains were found recently during a U.S.-North Korea joint recovery operation in North Korea.

Transfers of remains of soldiers in the U.S. UN force during the 1950-53 Korean war have been made several times in the past few years.

The remains were to be sent to the Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii for forensic examination and attempted identification, the UNC statement said.

The failure of the handover came after North Korea Thursday repeated a threat to resume its nuclear programme, accusing Washington of foot-dragging over a 1994 deal to supply the Stalinist nation with two light-water reactors.

French FM arrives in Tirana

TIRANA (AFP) — French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine arrived Friday in Tirana for a brief visit during which he will hold talks with his Albanian counterpart Paskal Milo on the troubled Serb province of Kosovo.

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Frank Sinatra dies of heart attack

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Singing legend and movie star Frank Sinatra has died of a heart attack, according to his publicist Susan Reynolds. He was 82.

The crooner, known as "Ol' Blue Eyes" was pronounced dead at 10:50 p.m. Thursday (0550 GMT Friday) in the emergency room of Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre. Ms. Reynolds said in a statement.

His wife Barbara and children were with him when he died, the statement said.

Sinatra has not been seen in public since a heart attack in January 1997, and has been in and out of the hospital several times since then.

His family had occasionally acknowledged he was in ill health but denied rumours that he was on his death bed.

Sinatra, who left women swooning for three decades, was one of the most enduring show business stars of the 20th century.

Francis Albert Sinatra was born Dec. 12, 1915, in Hoboken, New Jersey, the son of a firefighter-boxer father and barmaid mother.

After winning first prize in the Major Bowles Amateur Hour radio programme, he got a job singing for a touring band.

Sinatra caught the attention of Big Band leader Harry James and quit his sports reporter job to take up singing full time. He later switched to Tommy Dorsey's band.

His romantic styling and casual stage presence had teenage girls — known in the 1940s as "bobbysoxers" — shrieking and fainting, a phenomenon presaging the adulation given to Elvis Presley and the Beatles.

But in the early 1950s, Sinatra hit a slump as rock 'n' roll eclipsed the Big Bands. He suffered damaged vocal chords and his film career dried up.

In 1953, he staged a spectacular comeback, winning an Oscar for best supporting actor with his performance in "From Here to Eternity."

By the 1960s, Sinatra was a show business institution, selling over 600 million recordings with a string of hits that included "My Way," "Strangers in the Night" and "The Lady is a Tramp," and appearing in over 50 movies.

But he was also dogged by suspicions of mafia ties. Despite months of legal manoeuvres, he was compelled to testify at a New Jersey commission on organised crime in 1970. He also testified before Congress and a Nevada commission on his reported mob links.

Sinatra, who officially retired in 1971 but subsequently gave several concert tours, married four times: to Nancy Barbato in 1939, actress Ava Gardner in 1951; Mia Farrow in 1966; and Barbara Marx, widow of comedian Zeppo Marx, in 1977.

Director Gilles Jacob expressed his sorrow and recalled Sinatra's skills as an actor capable of "tortured roles alternating with easy charm."

The film in which the "voice of the century" was given his first major acting role, Fred Zinnemann's "From Here to Eternity," was in the Cannes official selection in 1954, Mr. Jacob noted.

Philippine Vice President Joseph Estrada says an Estrada victory leader in the administration party, assure him that he was not behind Pangasinan (Reuters photo)

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Indonesian authorities search for remains of victims following Thursday's blaze in a Jakarta shopping centre. At least 110 people, mostly believed to have been looters, were killed when the mall was set on fire during riots in the Indonesian capital, witness and officials said (Reuters photo)

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MANILA (AP) — Philippine Vice President Joseph Estrada says an Estrada victory leader in the administration party, assure him that he was not behind Pangasinan (Reuters photo)



Frank Sinatra, who sang, danced, loved and brawled his way through life while becoming one of the century's most beloved entertainers, has died aged 82. Spokeswoman Susan Reynolds said Sinatra died of an acute heart attack in the emergency room of Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles late May 1



Philippine Vice President Joseph Estrada (right) meets with Leticia Ramos-Shahani, the younger sister of President Fidel Ramos, at his Manila house where Ms. Ramos-Shahani says an Estrada victory is imminent. Ms. Ramos-Shahani, a high-ranking leader in the administration party, gave Mr. Estrada copies of the election returns to Pangasinan (Reuters photo)

Philippine presidential candidate concedes defeat to Estrada

MANILA (AFP) — Fringe presidential candidate Renato de Villa Friday conceded defeat to Joseph Estrada in Monday's election, leaving the sitting president and six rivals to contest the result.

"Based on the indicated trends from all over the country, it is clear that Vice President Joseph Estrada has accumulated a commanding lead over all other presidential candidates," Mr. de Villa told a news conference.

"I congratulate him for his achievement," Mr. de Villa, a former

defence secretary and former protégé of incumbent President Fidel Ramos, launched a spoiler's bid for the presidency after he was passed over for the ruling party nomination in favour of House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

An unofficial count showed Mr. de Villa at sixth place with just 2.7 per cent of the votes tallied compared to Joseph Estrada's 34.3 per cent with 44.8 per cent of precincts reporting.

Two other candidates, Juan Ponce Enrile and Manuel Morato, conceded defeat Thursday.

Earlier Friday Mr. Ramos' younger sister Leticia Shahani called on Joseph Estrada at his home to assure him that her family will refrain from tampering with the result. The ruling party said Ms. Shahani was only speaking for herself.

Mr. de Venecia has refused to concede while another fringe candidate, Miriam Santiago, charged Friday that Joseph Estrada had engaged in "a tsunami of vote-buying which has drowned all semblance of democracy in our poor country."

Powerful U.S. mission in Pakistan in bid to avert looming nuclear test

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — A U.S. delegation is planning a carrot-and-stick approach in talks Friday with an angry Pakistan, which is reportedly close to conducting a nuclear test following India's five blasts.

The team led by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Strobe Talbott includes Anthony Zinni of the U.S. Central Command, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Karl Inderfurth, Special Assistant to the President Bruce Riedel and a senior director at the National Security Council, U.S. officials said.

The delegation was to meet Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan and top military officials to try to persuade them not to copy India, which sparked

international outrage this week by conducting five nuclear tests.

"The meetings are a promised follow up to a telephone conversation Tuesday between President Clinton and Prime Minister Sharif," a U.S. statement said.

The delegation was here to "learn directly more about Pakistan's concerns in the wake of Indian tests," the statement said.

"The groups will be describing the full impact of sanctions imposed on India and other nations as well as counselling restraint on Pakistan's part in response to the Indian move," it said.

The U.S. officials after their pre-dawn arrival were to plunge into talks after resting. Mr. Clinton sent the U.S. team after a telephone conversation

with Mr. Sharif, who told him Pakistan had "no option but to take appropriate measures to protect its security and sovereignty."

On the eve of the visit the Pakistani cabinet "considered all aspects of the issue and unanimously resolved that Pakistan's legitimate security and defence interests are supreme, which under no circumstances can brook any compromise."

Sources quoted by the Pakistani press said the cabinet at its three-hour session Thursday called for a nuclear test.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars in their 50-year history while a lingering dispute over the ownership of the northern state of Kashmir remains a regional flashpoint.

A State Department spokesman in Washington said Thursday the goal of this "extremely difficult" mission was "to make clear the advantages to Pakistan of not testing and ... the extreme disadvantages of testing."

The United States has imposed tough sanctions against India and did not rule out a similar move against Islamabad.

Reports from Washington said Pakistan was making preparations to conduct its test, possibly as early as Sunday. Officials here had no comment.

The U.S. fears that "strong political pressures" will push Pakistan to respond with its own tit-for-tat test. State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

Washington has also suggested rewards if Pakistan abstained, Mr. Rubin said.

adding that the U.S. team "did not leave with empty hands." Political sources speculated that the U.S. may offer Pakistan some sophisticated military equipment to boost its security.

They said Islamabad may get an early warning system and a quick settlement of the 1989 deal on 28 F-16 aircraft. Pakistan paid \$658 million for them but delivery was cancelled over a U.S. ban because of Pakistan's nuclear programme.

The U.S. team may also offer an economic package through the World Bank and International Monetary Fund if Pakistan accepts its demand. But Pakistan faces a real dilemma because of tremendous domestic pressure to conduct a nuclear blast, one official said.

Myanmar court jails Westerner for five years

YANGON (AFP) — A British-Australian national convicted of illegal entry and suspected of "terrorist" activities was sentenced to five years in prison by a Myanmar court Friday.

In addition to the five-year term, the maximum penalty for the offence, James Rupert Russell Mawdsley, 25, was fined 50,000 kyats (\$7,812) by the divisional court at Yangon's Insein prison.

The court said Mr. Mawdsley had 90 days to lodge an appeal on compassionate grounds, and that if he fails to pay the fine a further 15 months would be added to his sentence.

A legal advisor to the Australian and British embassies in Yangon said Mr. Mawdsley could appeal to the high court, where legal counsel could be provided.

Mr. Mawdsley, who is also suspected by Myanmar authorities of "terrorist" activities, pleaded guilty at a trial inside the Insein prison compound Wednesday to charges of illegal entry.

The dual British-Australian citizen entered the guilty plea after being charged with violating Myanmar's Emergency Provisions Immigration Act, sources and witnesses at the trial said.

A British embassy spokesperson said it was not

clear why Mr. Mawdsley had been handed out the stiffest possible penalty for a case of illegal entry, but said the judge had raised earlier accusations of terrorism during the sentencing.

"The judge did not make any specific comment on why he had given him the most severe sentence, although I understand that when they were talking about the charges he raised the question of terrorism again," the diplomat said.

The officials said that diplomats had been able to talk to Mr. Mawdsley following Friday's proceedings, adding that he appeared calm and was considering appealing the sentence.

"On the question of the appeal, we simply do not know. It is up to him, and he is considering it at the moment, he is not sure yet," the diplomat said.

An Australian diplomat said earlier that Mr. Mawdsley had

already accepted that a prison term was likely.

Mr. Mawdsley was arrested on April 30 near the Thai border shortly after crossing into Myanmar without a visa or passport.

Last week a state-run newspaper in Yangon said Mr. Mawdsley was a "mercenary terrorist" who had crossed the border "with the intent to cause disturbances to disrupt stability of the state."

The report said he was "collaborating" with the Thai-based anti-government All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) and ethnic Karen National Union rebels.

Authorities said he had been arrested and expelled from Myanmar last year for organising anti-government demonstrations in Yangon (Rangoon) and handing out "terrorist" pamphlets, but had returned on foot across the Thai border.

Far right DVU says will run in German election

MUNICH (R) — The German People's Union (DVU), which recorded the best post-war result for the far right in a German state last month, announced Friday it would run in September's general election.

The DVU, which Germany's internal security agency has called anti-semitic and racist, won 12.9 per cent of the vote in a state election in the economically depressed eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt last month.

The scale of the party's success, which polling institutes failed to predict, sparked memories of the Nazis' rise to power in the 1930s, shocked Jewish groups and plunged Germany's mainstream political parties into a bout of soul-searching.

"We have decided to run in the federal election," said DVU spokesman Olaf Herrmann.

"The federal party executive voted this morning unanimously to campaign in the election. We are now working on our election manifesto. We have a list of candidates which still has to be approved," Mr. Herrmann said.

The party, which says it has 16,000 members and was founded in 1987, briefly entered the Bremen and Schleswig-Holstein state assemblies in the early 1990s.

The DVU has until now only campaigned in selected state and local elections where it believed it had a chance of winning at least 5 per cent of the vote — the minimum level needed to win representation.

The closest a far-right party has come to entering the Bundestag lower house of parliament was in 1969 when the National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD) garnered 4.3 per cent of the vote, falling short of the 5 per cent required.

Warhol work fetches \$17 million

NEW YORK (AFP) — Andy Warhol's "Orange Marilyn" fetched \$17.3 million for a work by the pop art master.

The 1964 portrait of U.S. movie star Marilyn Monroe, done from a photo taken during filming of "Niagara," is set against an orange background. It had been valued at between four and \$6 million.

It was sold for \$17,327,500 after two bidders battled it out by telephone, as the audience held its breath. It broke into applause when the hammer fell.

Sotheby's said at least six people wanted "Orange Marilyn" but that all but the last two bidders quickly dropped out.

The previous record for a Warhol work was set in May 1989, when "Shot Red Marilyn 1964" sold for \$4,070 million at Christie's in New York.

Sotheby's contemporary art sale was an overall success, generating nearly \$35.7 million against a high estimate of \$25 million.

The auction included Lucian Freud's "Large Interior W11" that sold for \$5.8 million — the highest amount ever paid for a Freud.

"This is a very wise buy for this price," noted Tobias Meyer, a contemporary art specialist for Sotheby's. Warhol's painting "is an icon of the century. This is the equivalent of a De Kooning, a Jasper Johns or an important Picasso."

The May 1989 Christie's sale in New York occurred at the height of the art boom. "Shot Red Marilyn 1964" fetched just \$3.6 million in November 1994, also at Christie's in New York.

Warhol, who died Feb. 22, 1987 of a heart attack, is already the third most expensive contemporary artist, but still far behind De Kooning or Johns, who — like the Impressionists — have broken the \$20-million mark.

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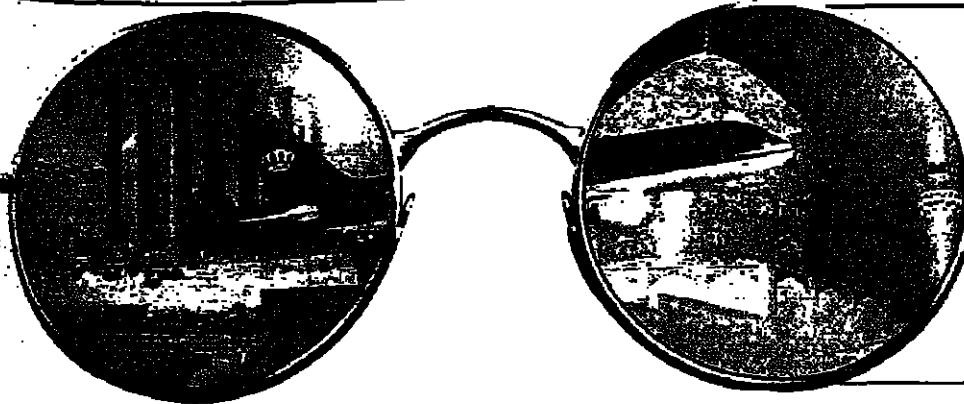
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Tehran Non-Stop, Twice Weekly

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 5684311, 5699634, 5667171, 5603585

Facsimile: 5696183

Ads: Fax 5693337

E-mail: jortimes@go.com.jo

Web Sites: http://accessme.com/JordanTimes/

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Whose security is in danger?

THE EXPLOSIVE demonstrations in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and occupied Jerusalem held to mark the 50th anniversary of the Nakbeh left nine Palestinians dead, hundreds wounded and less faith than ever in the direction in which the peace process is heading.

Several events from the confrontations, and the national events behind them offered by the Israelis, were truly tragic. The nine killed included two eight-year-old boys and an ambulance attendant, all of whom were described by the Israeli army as threatening soldiers' lives. Almost all of those killed were shot in the head. Israeli soldiers, in addition to their regular arsenal of "rubber" bullets and tear gas, used live ammunition against the unarmed demonstrators.

But one of the most telling events involved Israeli soldiers attacking several people reading verses from the Koran and observing a minute of silence in Arab east Jerusalem. This action should make it clear that, as far as the Israeli authorities are concerned and despite their assurances, being a Palestinian, practicing religion or remembering the past for one minute have become crimes in Jerusalem and the occupied territories.

Meanwhile, in Washington and New York, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu continued his deceptive and cynical public relations rhetoric, delivering such hypocritical statements to pro-Israel lobby groups and the U.S. Congress accusing the Palestinians of taking the Oslo agreements "hostage" and of "killing the peace."

While all of this was going on, the U.S. administration was standing helplessly to the side, enduring the wrath of Zionist senators and issuing weak platitudes that progress was made despite Netanyahu's gloating remarks to the contrary. Despite U.S. President Bill Clinton's billing as the best friend Israel has had, he and other senior administration officials are being publicly ridiculed by their partner Netanyahu, assisted by Congress, while losing face and credibility the world over.

What will be the ultimate result of the deadly clashes on Thursday? Will it force the Israelis to realise that they, in fact, cannot determine their "security" needs exclusively? Nor that of the Palestinians? Will the U.S. administration finally abandon its policy of politics for one of justice? Or will the Palestinian people see it as the beginning of the new, bigger intifada that Arafat has spoken of? The entire world has seen countless instances of Palestinian blood being split on the streets of their occupied lands for generations. The world now cannot continue to stand by and watch a new generation of Palestinians die, the old war officers of the Israelis lie and the Americans worthlessly "deplore" both.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Rai's Tareq Masarweh said India and Pakistan will be able to live in peace for a long time now that each side possesses nuclear weapons. Recalling the situation that existed during the cold war, the writer said the Soviet Union and the U.S. lived in peace for a very long time after World War II because they both possessed weapons of mass destruction which served as deterrents to war. The U.S. should not complain or raise a protest against India for possessing nuclear weapons because it is the U.S. which started the nuclear arms race in the world and it is the only country that used atomic bombs to devastate two Japanese cities during the last world war, said the writer. He said the Arab countries have all the right to possess nuclear weapons to attain parity and achieve a balance with Israel which has had nuclear war heads for many years. The writer said mass destruction weapons can deter Israel from waging further wars on the Arabs and could force it to recognise the Palestinian people's rights.

Al Aswaq's Rashid Hassan wrote of the 50th anniversary of the Israeli occupation of Palestine saying that throughout the past five decades the Arabs faced continuous tragedies and aggression from the Jewish state. This year the anniversary coincides with a manifestation of Zionist arrogance from the Israeli leaders who are bent on perpetuating their occupation of the Palestinian lands, said the writer. The anniversary this year witnesses a weak, divided Arab World unable to stand up to Israeli aggression and arrogance while parts of three Arab states are still under Israeli rule, he added. Hassan said the Palestinians observe this anniversary with great pain over the loss of their homeland, but, he said, despite the massacres committed against them by the Zionists, the Palestinian people remain determined more than ever before to pursue the struggle and stand steadfast, clinging hard to their national aspirations.

Jordanian Perspective

Where India's experiment could lead

Dr. Musa Kellou

INDIA HAS defied international will and thumped its nose at the world's nuclear powers by conducting five nuclear tests as well as test-firing missiles which could deliver atomic warheads. The move might or might not trigger another arms race in South Asia. But Pakistan is straining against the ropes to conduct its own nuclear tests if only to match its traditional rival's move and to reassert its regional and Islamic position.

On the one hand, India needs to be congratulated in its principled position that it would not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) because of what it sees as the convention's biased approach that protects the established nuclear powers at the expense of others who have the ability to peacefully handle atomic energy. But India has definitely brought upon itself the wrath of the U.S., which was quick to slap sanctions on New Delhi as one of the "nuclear rogues." Other countries have followed suit, but India has kept its cool arguing that its economy was capable of withstanding the impact of the sanctions, which include the suspension of aid and trade privileges.

Much attention has also been given to Pakistan's crash programme to develop a nuclear-capable missile with Chinese assistance. It also recently started up its first plutonium-production reactor with Chinese help.

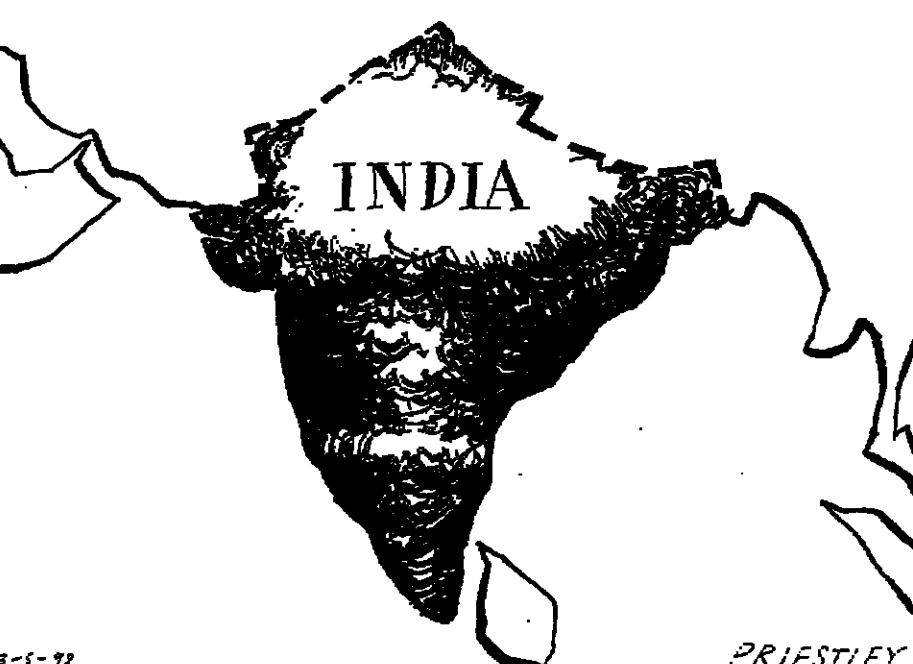
While we in Jordan can in no way endorse the Indian or Pakistani position or the stand of any other country which contributes to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, we cannot but wonder whether the ongoing battle over India's nuclear plans is not an opportunity for another attempt at dragging Israel from the special niche behind its nuclear secrecy. It was interesting to note that very little, if anything, was said about Israel in the recent uproar over India's nuclear tests. Only a handful of Western newspapers, radio and television as well as self-appointed experts referred to the Israeli nuclear arsenal and the state's blatant refusal to entertain any questions on its nuclear power. But that does not negate the perennial fear we in the region share of Israel resorting to the use of nuclear arms in a potential conflict situation despite its promise that it would not be the first to introduce atomic weapons to the Middle East.

The Indian statement which immediately followed the fourth and fifth tests on Wednesday announced that this week's explosions were the last in a series of experiments. Now, given India's clear understanding that only if it signs the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the

NPT, the Clinton administration would be able to ask Congress to lift the sanctions, the statement could be taken to imply that New Delhi might sign the two documents under certain modified conditions. But this might not happen overnight. All indications are that India could be moving towards accepting to sign the CTBT and NPT not too far into the future, and that gives the Arab World as well as all those concerned with the nuclear arms race time to launch another concerted effort to twist the Israeli arm into following the Indian example and signing the two international conventions.

With more countries jumping on the bandwagon to enter the exclusive nuclear club, the safer we will be in the region, since the threat value of Israel's Samson makes will be counterbalanced, hopefully, by other Third World countries' missiles which might possess an equal deterrent value, be it Pakistan, Iran, or Egypt. If the Clinton administration can manage to put the same pressure on Israel's nuclear defiance the way it is doing with India, Washington will find a friend in all Arab capitals. Though it is a big if, made bigger by Netanyahu's recent political stands. Yet, what else can the Arab Nation say?

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE TO THE DEAD, THE ORPHANS & THE HOMELESS, WHETHER THE MAD DESTRUCTION IS BROUGHT IN THE NAME OF TOTALITARIANISM OR THE HOLY NAME OF LIBERTY? — Ghandi



Arms race is no solution to South Asia's problems

By Hasher Majoka

AT A time when the end of the Cold War brought about a genuine hope of severely curtailing, if not totally eliminating, the global nuclear arsenal, India's testing of three nuclear devices has dealt a severe blow to international non-proliferation efforts.

For a country where half the total population lives under the absolute poverty line, situated in a region (South Asia) lagging far behind most of the world in almost every social development index, this act and its almost certain consequence, i.e., a stepped up arms race now involving nuclear weapons, is bound to have serious economic repercussions for the general population of the region.

India's western neighbour and its arch rival, Pakistan, seems almost certain to respond with a nuclear test of its own. A move that would channel further scarce resources of a poor and underdeveloped region into a seemingly never-ending arms race. Already India and Pakistan, who have gone to war three times

over the last 50 years are locked in a missile race. Each side is trying to develop better and longer range rockets, with a declared aim of acquiring an ability to hit each other's major population and economic centres.

Introduction of nuclear weapons into this volatile situation underlines the threat of a nuclear holocaust. A possibility that should alarm every individual the world over who does not wish to see a recreation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, albeit on a much larger scale. According to an Associated Press report, a Washington-based group of defence analysts estimates Pakistan has enough stockpiled weapon-grade uranium for 25 bombs, and India has enough plutonium for 78. The numbers are only likely to increase.

India claims its nuclear weapons programme is in response to the nuclear capabilities of China and Pakistan. New Delhi fought a brief but bloody war with China in 1962, losing thousands of square kilometres of disputed Himalayan territory to Chinese control. Relations

between the two countries have been tense ever since. Recently Indian Defence Minister George Fernandez, sparked a major diplomatic row after he termed China "number one threat to Indian security."

However China has been a nuclear state since the early fifties. It is one of the world's five declared nuclear powers, and possesses advanced missile delivery systems capable of hitting targets not only in India, but virtually anywhere in the world. Most importantly China, over the last two decades has managed to greatly improve the economic lot of its 1.2 billion people. It has had the fastest growing economy in the world over the last 10 years, and GDP per capita, currently at around \$3500, is expected to reach \$10,000 by the end of the next decade.

By contrast, experts estimate, it would be at least another decade before India can perfect its missile capability to threaten major targets in China. India's GDP per capita is under \$400, and according to a U.S. government report, about half the

population is too poor to even adequately feed itself.

Antagonism between India and Pakistan also goes back a long way. Both countries have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947. Two of them over Kashmir, a Muslim majority province that both countries claim. A brutal Indian suppression of an uprising by Muslim militants in the Indian-held part of Kashmir has claimed about 40,000 lives since 1989, according to international human rights organisations.

However the Pakistani nuclear programme was only started in 1974 when India exploded its first nuclear device. And it was not until the late eighties that Pakistan was deemed to have crossed the nuclear threshold, when the U.S. imposed sanctions on the country. Furthermore Pakistan has repeatedly offered to declare South Asia a nuclear-free zone should India co-operate, and has also agreed to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) should India agree to do the same.

However a near-unanimous call

from all sections of Pakistani society for a nuclear test of its own is not for the answer to the sticky problem. Such an act, though justifiable in terms of national security, in view of the dangers posed by the Indian tests, is not bound to further the interests of Pakistan or the region in general.

The lot of the common people in the region is not improved by their governments conducting nuclear tests or making longer range missiles. It is improved by more development spending, better educational opportunities and greater economic prosperity. None of which come about as a result of an arms race.

It is time for the international community to put pressure on India through diplomatic channels, and if necessary, through economic sanctions to keep over one billion people of the region from sinking into ever greater economic despair. It is a tough call to make, but one that has to be made to avoid the possibility of a nuclear war in the heart of Asia.

The writer, a Pakistani national, is a free lance writer based in Amman.

LETTERS

Latest EU stand on Iraq

To the editor:

I WAS surprised to read in the (Jordan Times, May 11) editorial that "the EU member states have declared on many occasions their opposition to a continuation of the embargo on Iraq. This is not accurate."

In its most recent declaration on Iraq, following the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1154 on March 2, the European Union:

— called on the Iraqi authorities to comply fully with the Memorandum of Understanding and with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

— noted that under the terms of SCR 1154 any violation by Iraq of its obligations would have severe consequences.

— noted also that compliance by Iraq with its obligations, repeated in the Memorandum of Understanding, to

accord immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to the Special Commission and the IAEA, would allow the Security Council to act in accordance with the relevant provisions of SCR 687 on the lifting of sanctions.

— expressed its determination meanwhile to ensure that the arrangements for bringing increased humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people under SCR 1153 are fully and effectively implemented.

As His Majesty the King is reported to have said elsewhere in your paper of May 11: "The shortest way to achieve this goal (of lifting sanctions) is to speed up the implementation of the Security Council resolutions and to continue cooperation with the commission (UNSCOM)."

Christopher C. R. Battiscombe
British Ambassador to Jordan

'Memory of Nakbeh could serve to end Israeli aggression'

REVIEWED BY ELIA NASRALLAH

THE LOCAL Arabic dailies last week addressed the 50th anniversary of the Palestinian Nakbeh, Israel's obstacles to the peace process, the situation in Iraq and Jordanian domestic issues.

Al Rai's Fakhri Kassar said the 50th anniversary of the Nakbeh rekindles sorrowful sentiments about Palestine as it reminds the Arabs of the loss of a dear part of their homeland. It is very sad to see the Israelis pursuing their settlement programmes unhindered by international laws, the Palestinians uprooted from their homes and the Palestinian refugees suffering from homelessness and loss while nothing is done on the part of the world community to enable the oppressed people to regain their basic human rights, said the writer. For the Arabs and Muslims, particularly the Palestinians, Palestine will remain alive in their minds and hearts because, Kassar said, this is a sacred land and a serious trust.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Saleh Qallab said May 15 of every year cannot be erased from the minds and hearts of the Arab people and it will remain a stigma and a mark of shame for the Arabs until they regain their dignity by reclaiming their lost land in Palestine. The writer said May 15, 1948 will continue to mark the darkest day in the history of the Arab nation until and unless the Arabs rise in a serious attempt to liberate their lands. The world should remember that in 1948 the international community conspired against the Palestinian people to drive them out of their homeland in order to plant in their place people from around the world who have no right in Palestine, stressed the writer. Qallab

said the anniversary is a reminder to the world that the Palestinians were evicted from their homeland through a major conspiracy and May 15 will continue to remind the Arabs that they have a duty to erase that shame from their history.

According to Al Rai's Sultan Hattab, every year the Arabs observe the May 15 anniversary of the Nakbeh with bitter memories and pain. For the past 50 years, the Arabs have experienced injustice, humiliation and aggression at the hands of the Israelis, he added. Despite the peace accords the Israelis do not recognise the Arab people's rights, and the Palestinians can never forget their usurped homeland, he said. The more the Israelis demonstrate their transgression and the more aggressive their behaviour, the more the Palestinians will show determination to resist and fight for their homeland, Hattab said. He said the May 15 anniversary will be handed down from one generation to another and the determination and resolve of the Palestinians will gather strength over the years until the time comes when they can put an end to aggression.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Nicola Nasser believes that thanks to Netanyahu, the Arabs who support the Oslo accords and those who oppose them are gradually being united in their stand vis-a-vis the Palestine question. The Madrid conference of 1991 and the subsequent meetings and the peace accords that were signed had really caused splits among

the Arabs and even among the Palestinian people themselves, noted the writer. He said Netanyahu's present behaviour and his intransigent position with regard to withdrawing from the occupied West Bank have served as a catalyst to unify the Arabs and to open the eyes of the world on the real situation in the Middle East region. He said the longer Netanyahu stalls over the implementation of the peace accords, the quicker the splits among the Arabs will disappear.

Al Dostour's Oreib Rintawi said the U.S. Congress, which, he said, is proving to be more Zionist in nature than Israel, has supported Netanyahu's practices in the occupied Arab lands while in Israel itself the Knesset gave the Israeli prime minister only 51 votes of confidence. The majority of the U.S. Congress opposes the U.S. administration's attempts to exert any pressure on Netanyahu to comply with the peace requirements and thus this Congress now constitutes the main obstacle in the path

of peace in the region, charged the writer. He said it is shameful to see the U.S. congressmen who, under the Bush administration, had worked hard for and adopted the Madrid and the Oslo peace process, now retreating from their position and backing Netanyahu's actions which aim at destroying peace.

Al Dostour's Yasser Zaareh warned of the despair that has permeated the hearts of the Iraqi people in the absence of any solution to their problems. The writer quoted Iraqi

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz as announcing that the embargo on Iraq is of the making of the Arab countries despite Iraq's compliance with the U.N. resolutions. Aziz's remarks reflect the real feelings of despair in the hearts of the Iraqis in the face of injustice, deprivation, and continual sufferings, he said. Zaareh said that while the Iraqis suffer, the Arab governments are closing their eyes and ears, trying to forget about the situation. There is nothing that stands in the way of Arab countries lifting the embargo, said the writer who urged their leaders to act promptly and save the Iraqis and the whole Arab region from possible looming dangers that seem inevitable in light of the situation.

Al Arab Al Yawm's Mohammad Subeithi criticised the lack of appropriate measures to deal with the flow of non-Arab workers into Jordan. There is no country other than Jordan among the Arab states that discriminates between different Arab nationalities and gives Syrian and Egyptian workers priority over Iraqis. The Syrians and Egyptians come and go at will without any visa, and the Saudis are allowed in with no restrictions, but this does not apply to other Arabs, noted the writer. Subeithi said the Jordanian authorities know nothing about the whereabouts of the Egyptian workers once they have entered Jordan, and so the country is full of thousands of unwanted job seekers. The writer said it is shameful that despite the incessant talk about organising the local labour market very little is done to control the flow of non-Jordanians into the country, a situation that is further aggravating the poverty and unemployment problem in the country.

THE WEEK IN PRINT

Feature

The Palestinian

The

On March 25, 1998, Professor Hani delivered the Karveem Khouary Award Lecture at the Center for Arab Studies of Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. Following is the text of the lecture, which will be reproduced in the next issue of the journal.

IN DECEMBER OF 1947, when I first arrived in the United States to study philosophy at the University of Chicago, Palestine was still an Arab state with a Jewish minority comprising about 30 per cent of the population. Within a few years of the end of the spring of 1948, most of the Jewish population had moved to Israel, and the remaining Jewish population was concentrated in the well-known Jewish quarters of the major cities.

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By Edgar Fera

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Investments benefiting from IPC law rise by 7.5%

AMMAN — Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC) Director Manager Muntasser Oqlah revealed Friday that 59 projects carrying JD84.5 million of investments benefited from the corporation's law since the beginning of 1998 until this date.

Dr. Oqlah said that 64 projects with JD78.6 million of investments benefited from the investment promotion law in 1997.

He added that, as such, the 1998 volume of investments registered a 7.5 per cent increase over the same period of 1997 while the number of projects decreased by 7.8 per cent.

Dr. Oqlah pointed out that the contribution by non-Jordanians amounted to JD13.4 million, constituting 15.9 per cent of the total volume of investments.

He said that Arab investments topped the list with a JD11.2 million, accounting for 83.5 per cent of the overall non-Jordanian volume of investments.

The IPC chief indicated that Arab Gulf investments registered JD9.8 million, or 87.5 per cent of total Arab investments and

73.1 per cent of the non-Jordanian total.

Regarding existing projects, Dr. Oqlah said that nine businesses have expanded their projects with a JD18.1 million volume of investments at a rate of 20 per cent of the total investment.

He gave the following distribution for the 1998 projects:

- 45 industrial projects carrying JD30.8 million of investment. The volume accounts for 36 per cent of the overall investments.
- Five hotel projects with a JD3.9 million of investments representing five per cent of the total.
- Five agricultural projects which carried investments totalling JD12.4 million and representing 15 per cent of the overall investments.
- Three health projects with a JD24.9 million of investments accounting for 29 per cent of the total.
- One project in the maritime and railway transportation sector. With investments at JD 12.5 million, the share was 15 per cent.

Arab Gulf states turn to private sector to create jobs for nationals

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states are turning to the private sector to find jobs for their citizens as financial strains are stifling growth in the foreign-dominated and bloated public sectors, a U.N. study has said.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries have made headway in efforts to replace foreign labour with nationals in the public sector.

But they face numerous obstacles in the private sector, said the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), a U.N. agency.

"The unemployment problem is a source of worry for the GCC states as the local labour in the private sector is less than 10 per cent," it said in its latest study on social and economic developments in the Arab region.

"The problem is not only that the private sector is reluctant to employ nationals but these nationals prefer to work in the public sector because it offers much higher salaries and more attractive financial benefits."

The study said most GCC members were considering measures to force the private sector to provide jobs to nationals, who are far more costly than expatriate workers.

In Saudi Arabia, by far the biggest GCC state, the government has set securing jobs for its growing national workforce as a primary goal in its five-year development plans and has announced incentives for private firms.

They include granting loan facilities and giving preference to companies which employ more Saudis in government contracts.

The other GCC members — Bahrain, Oman and Qatar — have also announced job nationalisation plans but are facing the same problem in the private sector.

"The main problem in the GCC is the excessive employment in the public sector which will remain slow because the governments are rationalising expenditure, due to falling oil prices," ESCWA said.

Gulf states, especially Saudi Arabia, need to step up training for national manpower in the fields that are demanded by the private sector where they can be paid as much as in the public sector," the U.N. agency added.

The study said Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil supplier, was moving in the right direction by sharply boosting budget allocations for education and training to \$11.1 billion in 1997 from \$7.36 billion in 1996.

Foreigners, mostly Asians, make up more than half the GCC's population of around 22 million, while they account for more than two thirds of the people in Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE, and as much as 90 per cent of their total workforce.

GCC nations are heavily reliant on oil exports which constitute more than 80 per cent of their total income and 35 per cent of gross domestic product. But the oil sector provides less than two per cent of the total jobs.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1998

By Linda's Pick, Thomas Moore

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) An older person has some good ideas about managing money. Money is listening. He or she may also have work for you. You would add money to your account as well as your personal self-esteem. Pay attention and you'll get lots of great ideas.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Something you expected first thing this morning. Make sure you know what's going on with an older person before proceeding. Once that's handled, the rest will be easy. You'll get lots of great ideas.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) While only yesterday you were feeling financially, today you might start to feel like a millionaire. All you had to do was use a little creativity. You might even be able to make something you want. Think about how this evening you're travelling to visit friends.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Your partner and friends would all like to go to something fun. How about gardening? You're all good at it, and you love digging in the dirt. If you don't have a neighbourhood garden already, get one started. Or visit a botanical garden. You'll get lots of great ideas.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You're going to be very high-energy most of the day, although you might feel a little stressed as well. Are you climbing a mountain? If not, that's the kind of thing you should be doing. Either that or running a marathon... or cleaning out the garage. Go for the gold.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You're lucky again this morning. Set new goals and take action. You should know what you want by now, so go out and get it. Don't wait until the afternoon. Conditions are not as good then. The early bird will definitely get the worm now, and the odds are in your favour.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Tidy up this morning so you can have friends over this afternoon. People will be in the mood to share their most bizarre fantasies and experiences. Since you like to surround yourself with eccentric people, this ought to be really interesting.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You're learning a lot and applying that knowledge to better your environment. You're also making a fabulous impression on someone you admire. If a few of the chores you assign yourself seem undoable, get a friend to help. You'll have more fun and you'll get more done.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take care of practical matters this morning. Balance the checkbook, go over your budget, pay bills and do the shopping. They're not your favourite tasks, but right now they may seem almost enjoyable. Tonight, have interesting neighbours over. This is the perfect evening for it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Play, laugh, fall in love, travel, do fun things, get serious if you must. Yours is the sign of seriousness, but it's not required today. You might even feel like squandering your money tonight. Spend it on something that will make a lasting impression.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You're driven by guilt this morning, as you race around finishing things that should have been done by now. This is a familiar pattern, but by this evening you should be done. Schedule a date for tonight or tomorrow, or both. You'll be great shape by then.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get together with friends this morning. You may not have time later. A new assignment is coming in, and your schedule is pretty much dictated by somebody else's whims this evening. Might as well go along with it. That'll free you up to do something more fun later.

Birthstone of May: Emerald — Citrine

Israel pledges to boost trade with Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — Israel and Turkey will more than double bilateral trade to \$1.5 billion by 2000 in addition to their boosted military cooperation, the Jewish state's new ambassador here said Thursday.

"Our two-way trade, some \$650 million last year, will exceed \$1.5 billion in the next couple of years, thanks to our free trade agreement which took effect last year," Uri Bar Nar told Turkey's state-run Anatolia news agency.

"The two countries should

continue to develop cooperation in several fields in addition to defence," he said.

Mr. Bar Nar presented Turkish President Suleyman Demirel with his credentials at a ceremony here Thursday.

Signing two key cooperation accords in 1996, Turkey and Israel have bolstered military ties following decades of dormant relations.

Israeli defence companies have won Turkish contracts worth nearly \$1 billion since then and the two states' air forces cooperate in military training. The two also held a

joint naval exercises with the United States last year.

Iran and several Arab countries, most notably Syria, have denounced the Turkish-Israeli military cooperation, saying the deal targets Arab countries. Ankara and the Jewish state deny the claim.

But General Cevik Bir, deputy chief of the Turkish general staff, is due to travel to Israel later this month for joint strategic evaluation of missile threats to the two countries by Iran and Syria. Turkish newspapers have reported.

Moi says Kenya is in serious financial trouble

NAIROBI (AFP) — Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi said heavy borrowing by his government from the domestic money market was crippling the economy and called for a concerted effort to stem a decline.

"The government has borrowed heavily to finance (budget) deficit," President Moi told an open economic consultative meeting he chaired here to seek ways of solving the country's economic crisis.

The level of short-term domestic borrowing had increased sixfold over the past decade, he said.

According to a discussion paper prepared by a team of government economic advisors, the country's domestic

debt rose from \$1.05 billion in 1992 to \$2.5 billion currently.

The government was using 24 per cent of its annual revenue to pay interests on money borrowed through the 91-day treasury bonds and bills issued by the central bank at an interest rate of 27 per cent.

President Moi blamed an inefficient public service for most of the economic problems of the country was facing.

"Weak public sector management has resulted in the failure to operate and maintain the existing public assets and services. The adverse effects manifest themselves in the poor conditions of our infrastructure," he said.

One of the recommenda-

tions by the team of experts was that the government enact a legislation to ensure that the state budget was always balanced.

They also suggested a freeze on all government projects in the next two years and the restructuring of the civil service to boost efficiency.

"Kenya's civil service, including teachers, is too large in relation to the size of the economy. Salaries and allowances for civil servants and teachers are now taking nearly 54 per cent of the recurrent expenditure," the economists said.

Kenya's civil service is estimated at 500,000 employees. Some 80 per cent of the education ministry's budget is absorbed by teachers salaries,

they added.

High interest rates on treasury bonds had pushed up interest rates on bank lending to between 30 per cent and 40 per cent, making it almost impossible for the private sector to borrow investment capital, the economists said.

Kenya's financial crisis worsened in July last year when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) suspended funding worth \$205 million, amid concerns over high-level corruption.

The World Bank's representative to Kenya, Harold Wackman, told the gathering that budgetary discipline and accelerated privatisation of state corporations would help solve some of Kenya's financial problems.

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THE Daily Crossword Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Egg on
- Relish
- Appendage
- "Strass"
- Playwright
- Locs
- Jacob's twin brother
- Takes advantage of
- Collection of words
- Bestride
- Has a cigar
- Population of a
- Low dam
- Having only magnitude
- Collages
- "The Age of Anxiety" poet
- Fragrant gum
- Obsessive fan
- Word workout
- Salesman, briefly
- Involved with
- Hot air
- Alternate
- Like a hillside
- Asses
- Those folk
- Animal with one foot
- Traffic jam
- Word meaning
- Mystery writer, Stanley Gardner
- River through Caen, France
- Pluck
- Nickname of Defon Sanders
- Evening in Paris
- Very strong winds
- Makes a lawn

DOWN

- Bedies
- Take a break
- Accomplished
- Renderers
- nonfunctional
- More down
- Blue-dye plants
- 7 Bad habit
- 8 Giant Mel
- 9 Elevates
- 10 Poe's lady
- 11 "Out of Africa" author Dinesen
- 12 Stable female
- 13 Purchases
- 14 Overlook
- 15 School officials
- 16 Ralph Emerson
- 17 Coeur
- 18 Successful treatments
- 19 Take up
- 20 -cchare (sheltered entrance)
- 21 Disunite a fly
- 22 Heartbeat
- 23 Gallant mount
- 24 Barbicue tool
- 25 Big bash
- 26 Headless, in a way
- 27 King of a fishy
- 28 Stringer
- 29 Presley's middle name
- 29 Reflects light
- 30 Nabisco discovery
- 31 Japanese salad
- 32 Roman tyrant
- 33 Berry and Norton
- 34 Oolong or darjeeling
- 35 Pink baby?
- 36 Nabisco
- 37 cookie
- 38 Lump of dirt
- 39 Berry and Norton
- 40 Oolong or darjeeling

Peanuts

I HATE TO TELL YOU, BUT DINNER WILL BE A LITTLE LATE TONIGHT.

ACTUALLY, I'M NOT SURE JUST HOW LATE... MAYBE TEN MINUTES... MAYBE TWO MINUTES... MAYBE THREE SECONDS...

ANYWAY, JUST SO YOU KNOW...

THREE SECONDS IS A LONG TIME...

Andy Capp

HI, ANDY. NOTICE THE NEW DOORSTEP AS YOU CAME IN?

NO, JACK, I DIDN'T.

THE OLD ONE WAS GETTING DANGEROUS. IT WAS SO WELL-WORN.

LI-OH-LI-DROP! THE SUBJECT? HE'LL HAVE TO CHIPPING IN TOWARDS THE COST OF THE NEW ONE.

Mutt'n'Jeff

HOW GOOD GREAT! YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT GAS / FILL UP MONTHLY.

ONLY ONCE A MONTH! SURE! SHE'LL HAVE TO CHIPPING IN TOWARDS THE COST OF THE NEW ONE.

HERE SHE IS, MUTT!

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"My mother couldn't tolerate procrastinators, so I started my mid-life crisis when I was seven."

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arpison

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DAMAR

ORDOB

BOINAL

TEOGUN

Now arrange the dried letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A AND (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: VITAL LITHE HARBOR MODIFY

Answer: What the highway crew got at a truck stop — ROAD "FILL"

Business

Daily
A review of

Municipality of Jordanians to acc

THE MUNICIPALITY of Amman (MCA) has taken a "decision" to encourage Jordanian sanitation workers. By employing Jordanians in the health department and giving them extra allowances, Mayor M. Al-Badani said, "we would be encouraging Jordanian citizens to overcome the culture of shame."

"If we want a worker to accept serious steps should be taken to encourage them to take this work as a job," the mayor said. He added that the municipality had been successful in showing that there are no non-Jordanians working in the health department, indicating that due to the jobless problem as a

Government to information, r

REPRESENTATIVES FROM the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, the Investment Corporation, the Industrial Corporation and the Industrial Development Corporation held a meeting aimed at preparing a booklet to explain the benefits and advantages of the Industrial Zone (IZ).

According to Samir Omari, director of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the booklet will enable the industrial

REUTERS 4
The Business

Currency	USD	GBP	JPY
US Dollar	1.0000	0.6936	149.64
DE Mark	0.8806	0.5361	136.63
GB Sterling	1.6260	1.0000	163.33
CH Franc	0.6720	0.4150	65.53
JP Yen	0.0074	0.0047	100.00
CA Dollar	0.6887	0.4235	70.91
IT Lira	0.0006	0.0004	1.936
NL Guilder	0.4963	0.3089	63.76
FR Franc	0.1678	0.1036	20.48

Currency	USD	GBP	JPY
US Dollar	1.4104	0.7898	170.88
Jordan Dinar	0.2898	0.1800	28.98
Saudi Riyal	2.65	1.6500	340.00
Syrian Dinar	0.2747	0.1700	27.47
Qatar Dinar	3.701	2.3400	470.1
UAE Dirham	0.2723	0.1680	27.23
Yemeni Rial	0.68	0.4200	68.00
Egyptian	0.2528	0.1580	25.28

Energy	Last	Change
Brent	14.33	14.33
WTI	14.82	15.11
Domestic	14.43	14.33
Oil	13.15	12.77
Gas	158.00	158.00

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	301.3	301.8
Silver (oz's)	5.69	5.72
Palladium (oz's)	404	406
Platinum (oz's)	1370	1371
Steel (3 Months)	1735	1740
Steel (6 Months)	1073	1078
Steel (9 Months)	548	549
Steel (12 Months)	4960	4980

Commodity	Last	Change
Coffee (cents)	132.82	Up
Cocoa (cents)	2002	Up
Sugar (cents)	271.9	Up
Wheat (cents)	93	Up
Soy (cents)	28.46	Up
Wheat (cents)	116	Up
Soy (cents)	0	Up
Wheat (cents)	410	Up

JORDAN

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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Municipality of Greater Amman encourages Jordanians to accept jobs as sanitation workers

THE MUNICIPALITY of Greater Amman (MoGA) has taken a "revolutionary" decision to encourage Jordanians to work as sanitation workers. By including daily-paid workers in the health insurance programme and giving them extra pay as family allowance, Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi said, "we would be encouraging the Jordanian citizen to overcome the culture of shame."

"If we want a worker to accept this job, serious steps should be taken to encourage the person to take this work and other jobs," the mayor said. He added that we face the unemployment problem at all levels as studies show that there are 600,000 non-Jordanians working in the Kingdom. Dr. Abbadi indicated that due to the augmenting jobless problem in all social classes, MoGA has given priority to Jordanians who are willing to take the jobs of sanitation workers. "We have formulated regulations minimising the employment of non-Jordanians and as we give high importance to the cleanliness of Amman, we believe that the citizen is capable and has no problem in working in this job," he said.

The mayor explained that in 1994, non-Jordanians took 61 per cent of the sanitation work but the equation was reversed in 1998 when 95 per cent of the sanitation workers were Jordanians. Dr. Abbadi concluded by indicating that MoGA at present employs 3,500 Jordanians and that only 1,300 are "guest workers" who account for 27.1 per cent of the total number of employees. (Al Arab Al Yawmi).

Government to issue bulletin detailing information, requirements about QIZ

REPRESENTATIVES FROM the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation, the Investment Promotion Corporation and the Industrial Estates Corporation held a meeting recently aimed at preparing a bulletin to explain the benefits and advantages of the Qualified Industrial Zone (QIZ).

According to Samir Omeish, advisor to the minister of industry and trade, the bulletin will enable the industrialists and investors to get all the necessary information and requirements to meet the terms of the QIZ agreement which allows exports to U.S. markets without taxes or customs.

Dr. Omeish revealed that preparations are currently under way to open a special office at the Al Hassan Industrial Estate in Irbid to provide all the services related to the QIZ arrangements and procedures and to clarify all the practical measures needed in addition to answering any queries in this regard (Al Dustour).

Foreign demand for bank shares boosts AFM trading

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) increased during the past week following a sudden demand by non-Jordanian investors for banking shares, a broker said Friday.

The stock exchange's weekly bulletin indicated that turnover in the past week amounted to JD8.1 million, a 65.3 per cent increase over the previous week's figure.

The bulletin showed that 4.9 million shares were traded through 3,656 contracts. The average daily trading was JD1.6 million.

"Trading of bank shares has played a major role in this increase," Abdul Mutalib Abu Hijleh, a broker at the stock market, said. Mr. Abu Hijleh indicated

that the demand for Arab Bank shares, mostly by Arab and foreign investors, has amounted to 25 per cent of the weekly turnover.

"Foreign demand for the Arab Bank's shares, following the capitalisation of reserves, has encouraged foreign investors to concentrate their activities on the Arab Bank," the broker told the Jordan Times.

He noted that demand also focused as well on the shares of the Housing Bank which decided also to capitalise its shares, effective Saturday.

Mr. Abu Hijleh said demand for bank shares is expected to continue in the coming weeks.

"Foreign demand for bank shares has led local investors also to trade in this sector," the broker indicated. He said that demand for

industrial shares was "very humble" although trading focused on the Jordan Electricity Company and the Arab Pharmaceutical Company "which recorded good profits in the past year due to the increase in sales to Arab markets, especially Iraq."

The broker said that lowering interest rate by the Central Bank of Jordan and foreign investments in the stock market will "play a leading role to increase the trading in the AFM."

"The stock market will absorb the liquidity surplus resulting from the decrease of the interest rate. This will encourage local investors to return to the market," he explained.

The weekly bulletin indicated that general price index has also increased by 10.9 point, up to 179.9 point in the past week compared

to 169.03 point a week ago, or 6.4 increase.

Trading in the banking sector amounted to JD4.46 million, or 55.1 per cent, followed by the industrial sector with JD2.8 million, or 35 per cent. Services sector recorded JD730,000, or nine per cent, and finally insurance sector trailed with JD54,000, or 0.7 per cent.

Out of the shares of 96 firms that changed hands in the market, 40 companies recorded increase in their prices, 37 companies registered decrease, while 19 firms witnessed no change in their prices.

Meanwhile, Jordan Security Commission (JSC) chairman Michel Marto said that the foreign investment in the AFM has increased in April compared to the same month in the past year.

Dr. Marto said in a statement, which was made

available to the Jordan Times, that "buying orders of foreign investors in the past month has amounted to JD11.4 million compared to JD800,000 in the same month of 1997, or 13-folds increase."

The selling orders by these investors amounted to JD2.5 million in April 1998, the JSC's statement said.

The net foreign investments, of which the bulk came from foreign funds, amounted to JD9.1 million, Dr. Marto added.

AFM's statistics showed the net Arab investments in the first quarter of this year amounted to JD8.2 million whereas non-Arab net investments totalled JD12 million in the same period.

The net foreign investment in the first four months of this year amounted to JD20.2 million compared to JD5.3 million in 1997.

REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 15/05/98 18:54									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7858	0.6160	1.4880	134.30	1.4600	1760.75	2.0128	5.9885
DE Mark	0.5600	-	0.3441	0.8334	76.15	0.8118	985.88	1.1273	3.3543
GB Sterling	1.6280	2.9033	-	2.4190	218.42	2.3577	2882.45	3.2722	9.7355
CH Franc	0.6720	119.90	0.4129	-	90.23	0.9738	1182.51	135.16	4.0218
JP Yen	0.0074	1.3286	0.4573	1.1071	-	1.0789	13.10	148.76	4.4557
CA Dollar	0.6897	1.2918	0.4225	0.9999	111.08	-	1270.80	1.4551	4.3255
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0141	0.3491	0.8845	1372.16	0.8235	-	11.43	3.4011
NL Guilder	0.4968	88.88	0.3063	73.93	66.88	0.7202	874.37	-	2.9745
FR Franc	0.1670	0.2980	0.1026	24.8322	22.40	0.2420	33.59	33.5900	-

Middle East Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7506	0.3770	3.6400	0.3068	3.6728	1513.20	3.4180
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	6.2896	0.5317	5.1340	4.3313	5.1804	2134.27	4.8166
Saudi Riyal	0.2688	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.57	0.0815	0.98	403.47	0.9105
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8806	9.3483	-	8.86	0.8111	9.74	4013.79	9.0584
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	-	0.0840	1.01	415.71	0.9382	-
Kuwait Dinar	3.2701	2.3185	12.2648	1.2328	11.90	-	12.01	4948.33	0.9382
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	0.1026	0.9970	0.0833	-	411.95	0.9298
Lebanese/1000	0.68	0.4885	2.4785	0.2481	2.4055	0.2021	2.4272	-	2.2558
Egyptian	0.2928	0.2078	1.0882	0.1104	1.0659	0.0895	1.0755	443.10	-

Energy				
Oil	Last	Revised		
Brent	14.43	14.33		
WTI	14.92	15.11		
Bonny	14.43	14.33		
Dubai	13.15	12.77		
UL Gas	158.00	158.00		

Metal Prices				
Metal	Bid	Offer		
Gold (oz's)	301.3	301.8		
Silver (oz's)	5.69	5.72		
Platinum (oz's)	404	406		
AL (3 Months)	1730	1731		
CU (3 Months)	1735	1740		
Zinc (3 Months)	1073	1075		
Lead (3 Months)	548	549		
NI (3 Months)	4960	4980		

Energy				
Commodity	Last	Delivery		
Coffee (c/lbs)	132.82	Spot		
Cocoa (\$/ton)	2002	Spot		
Sugar (\$/ton)	271.9	Spot		
Wheat (\$/ton)	93	Spot		
Soya (c/lbs)	28.46	Spot		
Tea (c/lbs)	115	Spot		
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot		
Rice (\$/ton)	410	Spot		

Libor Fixing				
Period	-1-	-3-	-6-	-1-
Cncy	Month	Months	Months	Year
USD	6.641	6.744	6.8125	6.931
GBP	7.4323	7.4896	7.5000	7.5052
JPY	0.5728	0.6146	0.6563	0.6875
DEM	3.5845	3.6327	3.6072	4.0208
FRF	3.5313	1.7396	1.8229	2.0000
CHF	1.6975	3.8016	3.7185	3.9395
ITL	5.6790	6.1500	4.5350	-

JOD Cross Rates				
Currency	Buy	Sell		
US Dollar	0.708	0.710		
GB Sterling	1.1604	1.1662		
DE Mark	0.3975	0.3985		
CH Franc	0.4775	0.4799		
FR Franc	0.1185	0.1192		
JP Yen	0.0275	0.0301		
NL Guilder	0.3528	0.3546		
IT Lira	0.4033	0.4063		

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET														
WEEKLY REPORT														
ORGANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (09/05/1998 - 13/05/1998)														
WEEKLY REPORT														
BANKS														
TRADING THE LAST 5 WEEKS	COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	NO. OF CONTRACTS	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED	OPENING PRICE	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE PRICE	MARKET SHARE	NO. OF TRADING DAYS	
255,500	170,000 ARAB BANK	16.3	1.01	448	13300	2538538	177.00	199.50	178.00	-22.00	190.868	-151	5	
1,030	1,470 JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.5	4.09	84	117148	594182	1.70	1.71	1.62	-0.01	1.658	-279	5	
1,350	1,750 BANK OF JORDAN	4.2	0.00	25	7668	9880	1.34	1.33	1.31	-0.02	1.333	-047	5	
890	880 H.D. EAST INV. BK.	45.0	0.00	63	70871	68725	1.02	1.02	1.02	0.00	1.020	000	5	
1,800	1,600 JORDANIAN INV. BK.	8.2	0.01	19	19187	30709	1.60	1.61	1.60	-0.01	1.603	-109	4	
6,160	5,500 THE HOUSING BK.	19.8	3.20	419	153394	925762	5.83	6.28	5.70	-0.25	6.035	-307	5	
1,850	1,800 JOR. KHALIL BANK	9.0	0.00	26	14990	28690	1.83	1.99	1.85	-0.17	1.914	-100	5	
1,690	1,460 JOR. GOLF BANK	4.1	10.14	48	114950	77139	1.66	1.66	1.66	0.00	1.671	-575	5	
1,860	1,740 JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	18.6	0.00	95	52805	92799	1.95	1.90	1.81	-0.03	1.869	-235	5	
1,750	1,530 JOR. INV. FUND BANK	12.3	0.00	52	229610	127450	1.33	1.61	1.45	-0.07	1.492	-219	5	
1,430	1,620 JOR. INV. FUND BANK/WH	-	0.00	8	38173	56123	1.63	1.55	1.47	-0.16	1.470	-282	2	
890	810 BETH AL-HAL (BETHA)	4.6	0.00	13	8850	7618	1.81	1.81	1.81	0.00	1.813	-443	3	
2,570	2,570 ARAB BANKING CO.	19.6	0.00	9	24444	61141	2.57	2.50	2.50	-0.07	2.501	-163	3	
BANKS				1329	854192	4423164	INDEX NUMBER		122.47	CHANGE +10.273				
INSURANCE														
1,040	1,000 ARABIAN SEAS INSUR.	49.4	0.00	4	313	194	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.001	-011	2	
2,220	2,050 JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	6.1	11.34	6	13750	29269	2.13	2.20	2.20	0.00	2.129	-625	3	
1,200	1,500 H.D. LAND INSUR.	5.9	0.00	1	200	414	1.70	1.14	1.14	-0.06	1.140	-087	1	
2,100	2,100 JORDANIAN LIFE INSUR.	10.1	0.00	1	9000	18900	2.10	2.10	2.10	0.00	2.100	750	1	
2,100	2,100 ARAB LIFE INSUR.	9.2	0.00	3	2350	5381	2.10	2.31	2.20	-0.21	2.290	-107	2	
INSURANCE				17	25493	53994	INDEX NUMBER		122.47	CHANGE +10.273				
SERVICES														
2,190	2,000 JOR. ELECTRIC SUP.	9.5	5.39	35	14654	23437	2.03	2.04	2.01	-0.02	2.020	-111	4	
4,950	4,500 JORDANIAN MINERALS	73.8	0.00	5	747	2362	4.59	4.50	4.50	-0.09	4.501	-628	2	
4,890	4,800 ARAB TEL. NETS	14.3	4.30	1	700	930	4.80	4.65	4.65	-0.24	4.650	-003	1	
1,080	1,020 H.D. PORTFOLIO	44.3	0.00	64	36100	39595	1.07	1.11	1.07	-0.04	1.097	-722	5	
1,200	1,800 H.D. PETROL-REFINERY	16.6	0.00	8	14720	5611	1.36	1.36	1.36	0.00	1.360	-000	1	
1,280	1,330 JORDANIAN TEL. NETS	14.3	0.00	15	14720	5611	1.36	1.36	1.36	0.00	1.360	-000	1	
8,600	8,410 ALBA-1	8.8	6.94	4	400	3351	8.00	8.62	8.30	-0.62	8.378	-020	3	
1,160	1,060 H.D. EAST WATERS	192.0	0.00	5	13708	17114	1.06	1.10	1.06	-0.08	1.080	-249	3	
4,700	4,000 ARAB TEL. NETS, EDUC.	9.9	2.00	21	59950	23874	4.00	4.05	4.00	-0.05	4.001	-592	5	
8,600	8,410 ALBA-1	8.8	6.94	4	400	3351	8.00	8.62	8.30	-0.62	8.378	-020	3	
1,950	910 KANSA SODIUM	16.2	0.00	10	9150	8668	1.92	1.95	1.92	-0.02	1.923	-203	4	
1,610	1,480 UNIFIED CO.	6.7	7.28	35	11750	17798	1.51	1.54	1.51	-0.03	1.515	-235	4	
SERVICES				204	157571	374460	INDEX NUMBER		113.39	CHANGE +10.166				
1,100	1,100 ATTACHEE	-	0.00	3	4550	5005	1.20	1.10	1.10	0.00	1.100	-163	2	
2,930	2,450 JOR. CEMENT FACT.	15.4	4.23	146	98715	253279	2.50	2.62	2.51	-0.10	2.546	-263	5	
3,050	3,050 JOR. PROSPECTIVE MINES	33.7	0.00	2	3380	10106	3.05	2.99	2.99	-0.06	2.990	-000	1	
5,500	5,500 ARAB POTASH CO.	26.9	3.44	10	6550	34031	5.50	5.52	5.47	-0.03	5.501	-008	4	
11,250	10,100 JOR. PETROL-REFINERY	10.1	8.56	50	11620	119594	10.20	10.44	10.20	-0.18	10.218	-182	5	
5,300	5,500 JORDANIAN FARMING	10.1	7.66	1	50	261	5.50	5.52	5.52	0.00	5.520	-005	1	
1,470	1,600 WOOLLEN INDUSTRIES	10.8	7.35	3	300	409	1.44	1.37	1.35	-0.08	1.343	-030	3	
1,270	1,160 INDUSTRIAL COMM. BROS.	-	0.00	9	2532	3029	1.28	1.22	1.25	0.00	1.296	-051	3	
6,350	6,350 JOR. WATERS	8.3	3.17	4	4000	37183	6.35	6.30	6.15	-0.30	6.197	-150	2	
5,740	5,270 ARAB FARMING	14.7	3.75	291	130905	693377	5.31	5.43	5.30	-0.03	5.297	-1455	5	
1,900	1,740 JOR. CERAMIC IND.	8.1	5.41	7	4273	7575	1.74	1.85	1.76	-0.09	1.773	-085	3	
4,070	3,870 JOR. PRINT & PACK.	-	0.00	4	500	1782	3.87	3.68	3.50	-0.37	3.564	-167	2	
1,350	1,170 JOR. PAPER MFG.	9.8	8.47	2	2100	2478	1.18	1.18	1.18	0.00	1.180	-065	2	
2,490	2,490 JOR. PAPER MFG.	13.8	0.00	3	700	884	2.49	2.44	2.44	-0.04	2.447	-077	1	
820	870 RAJTA INDUSTRIES	-	0.00	5	1459	1191	0.82	0.80	0.80	0.00	0.816	-097	3	
6,170	5,500 DAR AL-DAR OIL IND.	7.0	6.03	14	3301	15582	5.50	5.80	5.80	0.00	5.829	-055	4	
2,870	2,700 ARAB ALUM. IND.	10.4	9.06	9	3450	9944	2.79	2.77	2.76	-0.03	2.767	-058	1	
1,490	1,490 LIVERPOOL & POLYMER	15.9	0.00	42	43500	15621	1.48	1.48	1.47	-0.01	1.473	-158	4	
1,760	1,490 ARAB ALUM. IND.	21.4	0.00	2	9950	2045	6.99	7.00	6.99	-0.01	6.993	-084	2	
580	540 NATIONAL ENDS.	-	0.00	38	42917	22389	0.55	0.54	0.52	-0.03	0.522	-715	5	
1,410	1,390 INTERNATIONAL PETRO-CHEM.	-	0.00	36	44650	18175	1.40	1.41	1.40	-0.01	1.409	-1211	5	
540	540 JOR. NATIONAL ENDS.	303.3	0.00	2	950	281	0.54	0.51	0.51	-0.03	0.511	-018	1	
1,470	1,300 OXY. CHEM. IND.	12.9	6.35	3	700	884	1.20	1.26	1.26	0.00	1.277	-177	1	
1,210	1,170 HAZEL-CARLE WIRE MFG.	27.2	0.00	40	12644	14584	1.17	1.19	1.13	-0.14	1.153	-169	5	
620	590 JOR. SUPPLY-CHEM.	12.4	0.00	11	7900	4764	1.61	1.61	1.60	-0.01	1.603	-175	4	
1,380	1,270 ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	15.2	6.35	62	46400	62352	1.30	1.28	1.30	0.00	1.244	-928	5	
1,900	1,850 OXY. CHEM. IND.	14.0	6.82	38	19250	13710	1.85	1.86	1.86	0.00	1.874	-254	4	
790	680 JOR. ENDS. INDUSTRIES	9.3	16.49	31	16150	10940	0.69	0.69	0.67	-0.02	0.679	-202	4	
1,480	1,350 HAZEL-CARLE WIRE	3.7	7.52	30	12310	17405	1.35	1.35	1.32	-0.03	1.326	-182	5	
1,030	870 JOR. SUPPLY-CHEM.	12.3	11.63	18	21300	9762	0.87	0.86	0.86	-0.02	0.864	-141	4	
1,400	1,350 HAZEL-CARLE WIRE	10.0	0.00	22	7670	10541	1.35	1.39	1.34	-0.09	1.374	-102	3	
1,210	1,170 HAZEL-CARLE WIRE	25.4	6.43	12	71601	91235	1.29	1.31	1.24	-0.08	1.274	-716	5	
1,160	1,000 UNION CHEM. & WIRE	11.0	0.00	10	23650	26015	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.00	1.100	-526	3	
830	730 JORDANIAN STEEL	8.5	9.21	49	49712	36915	0.74	0.76	0.73	-0.02	0.743	-331	5	
1,600	1,570 HAZEL-CARLE WIRE	10.7	0.00	54	104650	62821	1.59	1.59	1.59	0.00	1.590	-085	4	
1,000	970 ARAB INV. FOOD FACT.	54.9	0.00	6	60000	60000	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.000	-000	1	
INDUSTRIAL				1137	854313	1467730	INDEX NUMBER		104.30	CHANGE +10.373				
GRAND TOTAL				2487	1907569	6529348	INDEX NUMBER		179.95	CHANGE +10.645				
NO. OF DAYS TRADED : 5														
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADING VOLUME : JD 1,307,876														
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADED SHARES : 281,514														
DAILY AVERAGE OF CONTRACTS : 527														

U-19 Asian Cup Jordanian team returns after winless participation

By a Jordan Times
Staff Reporter

THE KINGDOM'S Under-19 national soccer team returned home after poor performance at the Group Two 31st Asian Cup qualifiers which concluded in Beirut Thursday evening.

Jordan lost match 2-1 to hosts Lebanon after leading 1-0 at halftime to finish last in the four-team group.

They had earlier lost 2-1 to the Saudi team and lost the opening match 2-0 to Syria.

Lebanon were runner up and Syria third on goal difference.

The Saudi team, a two time titlist, clinched the qualifying berth from Group 2 and moved to the 10-team Asian finals in Bangkok, Thailand in October.

Thirty-nine nations are contesting the preliminary round qualifiers of the event divided into nine groups. The finals will include the top team in each group and the host nation.

Four teams — the top three finalists and

the previous Asian champion — will then qualify to the youth World Cup in Nigeria in 1999.

The Jordanian team had a week-long training camp in Egypt, and an earlier one in Baghdad, while the Syrian team, who won the title in 1994, trained in Tartous, Syria and Kuwait before arriving in Beirut.

The nine groups are:
Group 1: Iran, Qatar, Bahrain, Yemen
Group 2: Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria

Group 3: UAE, Kuwait, Oman, Palestine
Group 4: Iraq, Uzbekistan, Nepal, Turkmenistan, Democratic Rep. of Korea

Group 5: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan
Group 6: India, Maldives, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Bhutan

Group 7: China, Malaysia, Singapore, Laos, Guam
Group 8: Japan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Brunei

Group 9: Korea, Indonesia, Chinese Taipei, Philippines

Australian system must change — tennis legend

PERTH (AFP) — Australian tennis probably needs to change its development system if it wants to return to its glory days, former Australian superstar Margaret Court said here Friday.

Lamenting the country's decline in the sport in recent years, the winner of 64 grand slam events said: "It is hard to believe that, while the Americans and Europeans are producing (star players), we in this nation are not now able to do that."

"We probably have to change our whole system to bring some talent through," she said on Perth radio (Australian Broadcasting Corporation).

"Today, those young players who show some talent, tend to be thrown into squads. A lot of them get squashed before they get to 15 or 16."

Court, 56, completed the grand slam in 1970 and was Wimbledon champion three times.

Now an ordained pastor, running a Christian ministry in Perth, she said she believed she and her legendary compatriot Rod Laver (grand slam winner in 1962 and 1969) would have been able to handle the demands of modern tennis.

"I think we would have fitted in very well," she said. Referring to the benefit she had gained from her Christian commitment, she said: "I only wish I had known in my playing days what I now know from the Bible — then perhaps I would have won six Wimbledons, and not three."

Chang evicts Sampras with barrage of aces

ROME (AFP) — Michael Chang rained down aces on Pete Sampras Thursday to send the World No. 1 packing out of \$2.45 million Italian Open nursing a 6-2, 7-6 (8/6) third-round defeat.

Sampras found his clay game back on the drawing board with the French Open — the only Grand Slam that he has never won — starting in little more than a week.

Sampras, noted for a big serve, managed only five during the one-hour, 43-minute upset while Chang produced 11, including one at 197 kph to yield the first of his two match points.

"I'll never really win matches just by serving well," said Chang. "But a few free points here and there will definitely help me out."

"I was trying to mix things up, trying to play smart tennis. It's nice to be able to play Pete again and come out on top."

Marcelo Rios of Chile continued his effortless wins this week, knocking off Thomas Muster, a three-time champion in Rome, 6-3, 6-1.

Rios is playing only his second event since an elbow injury suffered in late March.

"I've been playing really good, winning easy matches here," said the 23-year-old from Santiago. "Each one I win is better for me. I'm playing the game better each day."



Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov reacts by throwing his racket after losing a point during his third round match against Dutch Richard Krajicek in the Italian Open against Krajicek won the match 6-2 3-6 7-6 (8/6) (Reuters photo)

Last year's French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten beat German Tommy Haas in the third round 6-4, 6-2, Dutch 11th seed Richard Krajicek stopped 1996 Paris seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (8/6). Spain's Alberto Berasategui outlasted

Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic 7-6 (7/3), 4-6, 6-2.

New Zealand's Brett Steven stunned Spain's Monte Carlo champion Carlos Moya 7-5, 6-0.

"I don't think anyone in their right mind would have taken me to win that match," the Kiwi winner said. "Especially after the first five games when I was down double break."

World No. 1 Sampras blazed a slow start in the first set — and the fast-light balls used at the event — for his downfall.

"I've gotten off to a shaky in every match I've played this week," the 26-year-old American said. "It feels like the balls are flying through the air and I feel tentative."

Chang had beaten Sampras in the second round of the French Open nine years ago — the only other time the pair had played on clay. Chang went onto win the Grand Slam as a 17-year-old.

Sampras, who won one of his three career clay court titles in Rome four years ago, held an 11-7 record in the series.

Chang won his last match against his rival in late 1995; Sampras won the pair's last meeting, the 1996 U.S. Open final.

"In the first set I dug myself a hole. In the second I was happy with how I played. I just came up a little short," said Sampras.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Ancelotti

leaving Parma

ROME (AFP) — Parma coach Carlo Ancelotti announced Thursday he is leaving the club after admitting the Serie A outfit had not been successful enough this season under his tenure.

Despite bagging a UEFA Cup spot, "I regret this, but I always said the club had the right to cash for a parting of the ways if results were not good enough. And it appears they weren't good enough, which I take into account," said Ancelotti.

Parma officials earlier had informed him a mutual split was in both parties' best interests.

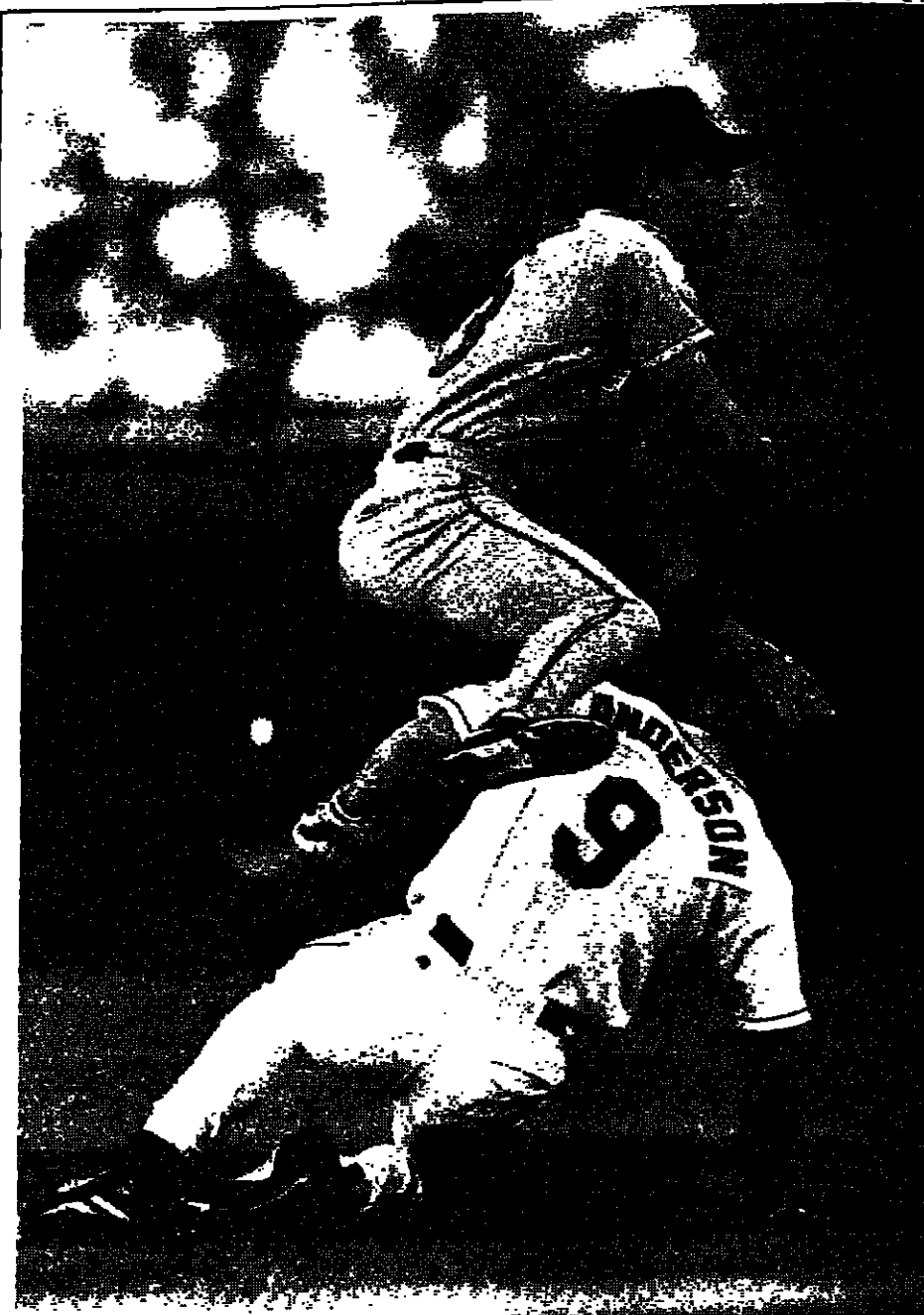
Ancelotti's successor is set to be revealed after Sunday's final league match of the season against Brescia. Parma had had high hopes of the title this season, or at least second spot to qualify for the Champions League, but cannot now finish higher than fourth.

United want

Batistuta

LONDON (AFP) — English Premiership Manchester United are interested in bringing Fiorentina's 29-year-old Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta to Old Trafford.

Batistuta, who has been with the Italian side for seven years and who has scored 150 goals for the Serie A club, is currently under investigation for alleged tax evasion and has had assets frozen by the Argentine authorities.



Cleveland Indians shortstop Omar Vizquel leaps over a sliding Baltimore Orioles' Brady Anderson after forcing him at second base in the first inning at Camden Yards (Reuters photo)

Road to NBA title leads through Chicago

CHICAGO (AFP) — Once again, the road to the National Basketball Association championship runs through Chicago.

On Sunday, the Indiana Pacers become the latest Eastern Conference challengers to the Chicago Bulls' hegemony when they launch their NBA semi-final series.

"To get a championship, you have to go through Chicago," Pacers star guard Reggie Miller said simply.

Although either the Bulls or Pacers have been in the conference finals in each of the last 10 years, they have never met in the playoffs.

Indiana marks Chicago's sixth different opponent in its last six conference finals appearances. The Pacers are appearing in the conference final for the third time in the last five seasons.

"Indiana is a very deep team," said Bulls coach Phil Jackson. "They have 10 players on their bench who are all contributors. They play excellent defence as a group and that will be a key to the series. They're also very physical. They're used to match that."

Bulls superstar Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen have formed the nucleus of a Bulls team that is seeking its third straight NBA title and sixth in the last eight years under Jackson.

Chicago won three straight titles from 1991-93. The Bulls and Pacers split their four regular season meetings this season, with both winning one on the other team's home court.

"It will be tough to beat them four games but we have some guys over here who really believe in themselves," said Larry Bird, the NBA Coach of the Year in his first season.

Meanwhile, Shaquille O'Neal and Karl Malone will be battling in the Western Conference finals between the Los Angeles



Indiana Pacers coach Larry Bird yells instructions to his team in their 99-88 victory against the New York Knicks in Game 5 of their Eastern Conference semifinal. The Pacers advance to the Eastern Conference finals with the win. Bird was named NBA Coach of the Year earlier this week (Reuters photo)

Lakers and Utah Jazz beginning Saturday in Salt Lake City.

The experienced Jazz taught the young Lakers a lesson when they eliminated Los Angeles in five games in the quarter-finals last year on their way to the NBA Finals.

Now the Lakers have an opportunity to show how much they learned from that series.

"The Jazz beat us last year so we have something to prove here," said O'Neal. "I just think they have a year under their belt mentally and I think it's going to help them," admitted Malone.

O'Neal and the Lakers overpowered the Seattle

SuperSonics in five games to reach the West finals for the first time since 1991 when Magic Johnson was running the show.

After losing the first game of the series in Seattle, the Lakers won the next four, averaging more than 108 points and winning by an average of nearly 17 points against one of the league's best defensive teams.

Utah, which has home-court advantage throughout the postseason, is in the conference finals for the third straight year. After needing the maximum five games to close out the Houston Rockets in the opening round, the Jazz eliminated the San Antonio Spurs 4-1 in the next round.

Life ban for Chinese swimmers caught with steroids

BEIJING (AFP) — China, shamed by recent doping scandals, is to impose a lifetime ban on swimmers, including first time offenders, caught using steroids.

"We deeply regretted the series of shameful drug scandals that involved Chinese swimmers in the 1994 Asian Games and the World Swimming Championships in Perth this January," said Wu Shouzhong, a Chinese Swimming Association official and vice president of the Chinese Olympic Committee.

"The CSA plans to increase the number of drugs tests this year to 600 and impose more severe sanctions, including a life-ban against first-time steroid offenders," he told an anti-doping conference, according to Xinhua.

Four Chinese swimmers at the world championships were found to have taken the illegal diuretic Triamterene, a masking agent for anabolic steroid use.

The failed tests followed the disqualification of breaststroker Yuan Yuan after Australian customs officials found 13 vials of human growth hormone in her bags at Sydney airport a few days earlier.

In total, 27 Chinese swimmers have tested positive for drugs in the last decade, with seven testing positive for dehydrocorticosterone at the 1994 Asian Games in Japan.

"The CSA is resolved to execute its strict penalty policy against drug offenders," said Chinese swimming centre director and CSA vice chairman Shi

Tianshu.

"We will continue our anti-doping education program related to banned performance-enhancing substances in order to let all people in China's swimming circles gain a thorough knowledge," he added.

The CSA proposed an 11-point action plan to stamp out drug abuse after the doping scandal in Australia, which included a lifetime ban for anyone caught using anabolic steroids.

In addition, all swimmers will have to put their winnings into a bank account that will only be accessible when they retire and if they have a clean slate as far as doping is concerned.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 2	GALLERIA 1	Hisham Yares Theater
	TEL: 4631441	TEL: 4631444	TEL: 3699238	TEL: 3677430	TEL: 5934793	TEL: 5934793	TEL: 4625155
	Bruce Willis & Gary Oldman ... in		The biggest cinema production	CONCORD '1' Farouq Fikhar & Wafa Amr ... in HANHEB ANNAB (ARABIC)	ABDOUN	ABDOUN	STARTING APRIL 6TH
	THE FIFTH ELEMENT	ED	TITANIC	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	FORGET PARIS	THE MIRROR HAS TWO FACES	Don't Laugh Please We're Jordanian
	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Shows: 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30 p.m.	CONCORD '2' ISMAILIA RAYEH GAI - KAMANANA Shows: 8:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	& still showing evenings	& still showing evenings	Starring Hisham Yares, Amal Dabbas, Rania Kurdi and the group
					TITANIC	TITANIC	at 8:30 p.m.
							For reservations call: 4640135, 4625155

World by Fran

Are you a World

1) Last year the French sports newspaper L'Equipe held a poll amongst 50 of the world's best footballers to determine the best match of the century. A question of taste, of course, but the results of the poll were clear enough: The "winner" was the semifinal fixture between Italy and Germany in the 1970 World Cup in Mexico. For as it was a painful match, at the end of regular time Italy was partially incapacitated. Had sustained an injury to my right shoulder after a collision with an Italian player but carried on playing with a sling which immobilised my arm. In extra time, Italy won this unforgettable match 4-3, also scored Italy's fourth goal!

2) This country is taking part in the football World Cup although it is mostly too cold there for field sports.

3) Because this kingdom is reaped riches from oil and gas, there is an abundance of super-modern labor sports arenas with natural turf floors, where even first league football games can be played north of the Arctic Circle.

4) In 1988 Japanese feminists dedicated a memorial in this country after its prime minister failed to call her cabinet position women.

5) Environmental protection, however, are rather new with the government of this country because it punishes its fishermen to let a protected species of animal.

6) The ancestors of these swimmers were also none so popular with their vanguard foes in their pillaging raids across the seas, as it was a little gesture of respect, a coveted prize awarded in the capital of this country for efforts towards peace.

7) The inhabitants say of themselves that they are usually unbeatable in the World Cup trophies.

8) The World Cup can be seen the first time in 1970.

9) The prize trophy played for in the hands of Brazil after the team won the World Championship competition.

10) The third time in 1970.

11) The left is the current cup, which was owned by an Italian artist.

12) It has been awarded to the World Cup.

13) The honour of being the team captain to hold the cup in my hands as a champion.

ARGENTINA

2,780,400 sq km
Population 34,768,451
Principal language
Annual GNP per capita

Participation in World Cup championships

World Cup contest by Franz Beckenbauer

By Franz Beckenbauer, 1966 World Cup champion and 1974 World Cup runner-up

1. Last year the French sports newspaper L'Equipe held a poll amongst 50 of the world's best footballers to determine the best match of the century. A question of taste, of course, but the results of the poll were clear enough. The "winner" was the semifinal fixture between Italy and Germany in the 1978 World Cup in Mexico. For me it was a painful match. At the end of regular time I was partially incapacitated. I had sustained an injury to my right shoulder after a collision with an Italian player but carried on playing with a sling which immobilised my arm. In extra time Italy won this unforgettable match 4-3 who scored Italy's fourth goal.



2. If this country is taking part in the football World Cup although it is mostly too cold there for field sports.

3. But because this kingdom has reaped riches from oil and gas, there is an abundance of super-modern indoor sports arenas with natural turf floors, where even first league football games can be played north of the Arctic Circle.

4. In 1988, Japanese feminists dedicated a memorial to this country after the female prime minister filled half her cabinet positions with women. Environmental protectionists, however, are rather angry with the government of this country because it permits its fishermen to hunt a protected species of mammal.

5. The ancestors of these countrymen were also once too popular with their vanquished foes in their pillaging raids across the seas. Perhaps as a little gesture of atonement, a coveted prize is awarded in the capital of this country for efforts towards peace.

6. The inhabitants say of themselves that they are practically unbeatable in

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Please fill in the respective letters in the corresponding positions:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52
53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65
66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78

winter sports. According to them, everybody there is born with a long piece of sporting equipment attached to their feet.

Solution:

Please enter the letters of the country as instructed in the solution squares as follows:

Second letter of the country in position 26.
Fourth letter in positions 42, 51 and 62.



ARGENTINA

2,780,400 sq km Capital: Buenos Aires
Population: 34,768,455 — 12.5 per sq km
Principal language: Spanish
Annual GNP per capita: US\$ 8,060.—

Participation in World Cup championships:

1930	1978
1990	1986

Bin Sulayem dominates on his way to 3rd consecutive Jordan Rally title

By Aileen Bannayan
and Alia Shukri Hamzeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Mohammad Bin Sulayem of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Friday drove his Ford Escort to victory as he won his eighth Jordan Rally title with a time of 3.02.22 minutes.

Bin Sulayem, with co-driver Ronan Morgan, dominated the two-day 23-stage rally for the third consecutive year ahead of Cypriot Andreas Tsouloftas and partner Panayotis Shialos who took second place with a time of 3.16.10 minutes in their Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution.

Australia's Ron Cremen and David Stone finished third with a time of 3.29.07 minutes in another Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution.

Jordan's top competitor was 1996 Jordan Drivers Open champion Ahmad Al Daoud and partner Malek Hariri who came in fourth overall in their Ford Escort Cosworth with a time of 3.31.20.

Only fifteen competitors finished the rally including seven Jordanians.

Reaching the finish ramp at Amman's Le Meridien, dubbed "home of the rally", were UAE's Abdullah Qassimi in fifth place, Cypriot entry Israel's Yuval Melamid, in sixth, UAE's Ron Oakley seventh, Jordan's Amjad Shamaileh eighth, Jordan's Bashar Bustami ninth, Faris Bustami tenth, Cypriot Nearchos eleventh, Jordan's Amjad Farrah twelfth, followed by compatriots Raed Haddad thirteenth, Lee Dunn fourteenth, and the only woman competitor Fiona Mulcahy of the UAE fifteenth.

Friday's win consolidated nine-time Middle East champion Bin Sulayem's grip on the 1998 Middle East Championship after



Mohammad Bin Sulayem of the UAE powers his Ford Escort through the desert stages of the Jordan Rally (Reuters photo)



Prince Faisal Ben Hussein joins Jordan Rally winners Mohammad Bin Sulayem (R) and co-driver Ronan Morgan at the finish ramp. Bin Sulayem won by 14 minutes over Cypriot driver Andreas Tsouloftas (AFP photo)

winning the inaugural Oman and UAE rallies.

The regional championship includes rallies in Lebanon, Kuwait, Qatar, Cyprus and Dubai.

Jordan's most prestigious auto sports event, which this year forms the third round of the Middle East Rally Championship, included 300.580 kilometres of spe-

cial stages.

His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein gave the start signal for the 16th Jordan Rally organised by the Royal

Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

Twenty-nine cars started the rally Thursday morning heading eastwards for 13 special asphalt stages passing through winding roads in Rumman Forest, Sleith, Iraq Al Amir, the Dead Sea, Mushaqqar, Mousa Springs, Mount Nebo, Mahes, and ending in Dar Al Dawa'. The 13th stage was later cancelled for safety reasons.

Mohammad Al Daoud who was fourth last year went out of the rally in Thursday's fifth special stage. Others quitting included Assem Aref, Tareq Tabaa, Tamer Tabaa, Ibrahim Muhawesh and Ahmad Mihyar of Jordan, Brian McGinley of the UAE, Amrik Singh of Great Britain, Daniel Levi, Charis Komodromos, Phildes Christakis and Rami Shohatovich of Cyprus, Masoud Al Saleh and Jassim Bin Hey from Kuwait.

Only Twenty-one cars started the rally on the second day as desert tracks proved to be the ultimate test of experience, stamina and well-maintained and sponsored teams.

Friday's ten special stages took drivers to the south of the country through Tunaib, Daba'a, Salaya, Mudeseisat, Daba'a, Swaga.

No Jordanian has won the rally since it started in 1981.

The best Jordanian showing was third place finishes by Ziyad Bustami in 1981, HRH Prince Abdullah in 1986 and 1988; Hani Bisharat in 1987, Amjad Farrah in 1993, and Ma'rouf Abu Samra in 1995.

Competitors represented the UAE, Ireland, Cyprus, Qatar, Kuwait, Australia, Oman, Great Britain, and Germany.

The FIA stewards of the event were Wilhelm Lyding from Germany and Derek Ledger from Jordan.

Jordan earns silver medal at Asian taekwondo Championship

By Manther Murjan
and Ibrahim Haddadin
Special to the Jordan Times

MOHAMMED FALAH secured Jordan's first silver medal on the opening day of the 13th Asian taekwondo Championship presently underway at Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Falah won in the below 50 kilogramme weight group, beating a Taipei player 2-1. Earlier, Falah won his first game against Australian John Rexon by default and Saudi Sami Shabnan by technical knockout. Falah won his

third match beating his Korean opponent with a score of 4-2.

In the 45-50 kg category, Jordan's Amar Hassan lost his match to Chinese player Shing Lee. In the opening match he managed to put on quite a fight by winning the game against Kuwaiti Khalid Bu Muhammad with a score of 3-0, using swift aggressive moves.

In women's matches, Shatha Assaf, the youngest of the players and a newcomer to international championships, lost her opening match in below 43 category, with a score of 3-

11 against Chinese Ming Lee. Teammate Rasha Musharbash also lost her match to her Indonesian counterpart 1-3 in the same weight group.

This championships marks the first participation of a Jordanian referees in a international event. Referee Fuad Jarwan officiated three matches and was the

only Arab referee.

International referee Lua'y Khatib came ahead of class among over 55 participants from 18 countries in the referees training course.

The next Asian championship is expected to take place in 2000 in Hong Kong. The qualifiers are to be held in the Philippines in August 1999.

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During Prince Hassan's address to army cadets: 'Jordan has been treated unfairly by some who try to belittle its achievements and sacrifices'

MU'TA (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan praised the role of the Jordanian Armed Forces in defending the Palestinian homeland and other Arab land, and contributing towards world peace.

In an address to army cadets at the military wing of Mu'ta University, Prince Hassan urged the young officers to uphold the standards and the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and build on the achievements of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

The Crown Prince, who also tackled domestic and foreign affairs of concern to Jordan, urged the cadets to arm themselves with the knowledge and skill necessary to counter any attempts to harm Jordan and its achievements.

Recalling the sacrifices of the armed forces in defending Arab rights, Prince Hassan said the Jordanian army assumed honourable stands in the battles for Jerusalem, Bab Al Wad, Latroun and other areas of Palestine. He stressed that it was the Arab army's brave and heroic stand that preserved the West Bank, including Arab Jerusalem in

the 1948 war.

Monuments of the army's valiant stands and sacrifices can still be seen by visitors to Palestine today, said the Crown Prince.

Referring to Jordan's role in the 1967 war, Prince Hassan said that Jordan entered the war despite its knowledge of Arab military weaknesses. It was compelled to do so in conformity with the Arab Defence Pact. The armed forces were placed under the disposal of a non-Jordanian Arab commander.

The Jordanian Armed Forces, he added, continued to shoulder their responsibilities after the 1967 war, and took part in defending the Golan Heights in Syria, despite the lack of prior coordination.

Prince Hassan also said that Jordan's role in U.N. peace keeping efforts, was part of the Kingdom's endeavours to preserve peace, citing the despatch of Jordanian troops to defend Kuwait in 1961, its involvement in settling the Yemen crisis in 1962, and in resisting the separatist movement in Oman in 1975 as examples of the armed forces peace efforts. He also referred to

Jordan's participation in U.N. peace keeping efforts outside the Arab World, which gained the country further credibility and praise for its gallant armed forces.

Prince Hassan pointed out that despite its efforts, Jordan has been treated unfairly by its enemies and some Arabs, who he said try to belittle its achievements and the sacrifices of its armed forces. He said harmful attempts against Jordan come from those opposed to the Kingdom's march towards democracy as if it is directed against them. These elements refuse to believe that Jordan's efforts are designed to protect Arab national interests.

Praising His Majesty King Hussein's sacrifices for Jordan, Prince Hassan said the King continues his relentless efforts towards modernising and strengthening the armed forces, supervising the training of troops, and monitoring over the armed forces development.

Prince Hassan described Jordan's relations with the Palestinians as ideal, and reaffirmed Jordan's call for (Continued on page 7)



A relative cries out during the funeral of Samir Fayad, 36, who was fatally wounded when Israeli soldiers opened fire on Palestinian youths demonstrating in commemoration of Al Nakbe, Thursday (AP photo)

Vajpayee declares India has a 'big' nuclear bomb

G8 will not collectively impose sanctions on India — Britain

NEW DELHI (AP) — India has more than 400 million adults who can't read, more than 300 million people living in poverty, a million kilometres of unpaved roads — and at least one nuclear bomb. Its status as a Third World nuclear power was confirmed Friday in a statement from the prime minister.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's declaration that India has a "big bomb" was a startling escalation in his defiance of governments around the world, who answered India's five nuclear tests this week with economic sanctions. Until now, India had been careful to differentiate between the nuclear weapons of Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States, and its own "peaceful" research devices.

(Continued on page 7)

BIRMINGHAM (AFP) — The Group of Eight most powerful industrial countries will not collectively impose sanctions on India over its nuclear tests. British Prime Minister Tony Blair's spokesman said Friday.

There will be "no collective sanctions at the G8," the spokesman said.

Japan and the United States have already announced sanctions against India, which stunned the world with five surprise nuclear test explosions this week.

The other G8 countries — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia — have so far held back from taking measures.

The G8 would express "anger and dismay" at what India has done, "spokesman Alastair Campbell said. But he said it would be a response that "does not raise the temperature. We want Pakistan to make a more cautious response than they might," he added.

Each government would respond in its own way to India's nuclear tests, he said. The United States have announced tough economic sanctions against New Delhi and Japan has decided

to freeze its development aid and recalled its ambassador.

But Russia and France have expressed publicly their scepticism about sanctions and London has condemned the tests and recalled its high commissioner for consultations and Germany has adjourned since the negotiations on development aid for India.

Mr. Campbell stressed that the eight wanted to get India to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which has been signed by 149 countries but only ratified by 13.

"We are going to continue to put pressure on India to get Delhi to join up to the CTBT and the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty]."

The eight will also put political pressure on Pakistan not to follow suit and carry out its own nuclear test," the spokesman added.

G8 leaders will discuss India's nuclear tests at the opening of their summit later Friday which begins with a formal dinner. Afterwards the eight will issue their first statement on the situation in the Serb province of Kosovo and the Middle East peace process.

Israelis say torture is important to security

GENEVA (AFP) — Israeli government officials defended the use of torture on Friday, saying "moderate physical pressure" was permitted in exceptional circumstances to prevent terrorist attacks.

Defending Israel's interrogation policy before the United Nations Committee Against Torture, the Israeli team denied that their methods applied to suspects contravened international conventions.

The team said that sleep deprivation, deafening music, violent shaking, threats and putting hoods on prisoners' heads did not constitute torture or inhuman or degrading treatment in contravention of the 1987 U.N. international convention against the use of torture.

The Israelis, headed by Israeli Foreign Ministry legal counsellor Alan Baker and Deputy Justice Minister Yehuda Schaffer, confirmed that "moderate physical pressure" on detainees had been authorised by the Israeli supreme court and was used

only in exceptional circumstances to obtain vital information in order to thwart terrorist attacks.

Last May the U.N. anti-torture committee of ten independent experts condemned the behaviour of the Israeli security services as acts amounting to torture.

The committee called on Israel to stop using torture, stressing that under the U.N. convention no circumstances warranted the practice. The Israeli team explained Friday that the policy had prevented a number of terrorist attacks, including suicide bomb attempts at market places and bus stations in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Tiberias and Eilat, as well as the planned seizure of an embassy in Tel Aviv.

A bus hijacking and various planned kidnappings had also been prevented, the Israelis contended.

Israel's internal security agency Shin Beth tortures 85 per cent of the Palestinians it interrogates in violation of the U.N. convention on torture, an

Israeli human rights group said Thursday.

"Shin Beth interrogates between 1,000 and 1,500 Palestinians every year, and in 85 per cent of cases they use torture," said the B'Tselem group in a statement.

Besides the application of "moderate physical pressure" Israeli law also permits even more severe interrogation in cases where suspects are believed to have information about an imminent attack. Israel denies the methods amount to torture.

Moderate pressure comprises binding detainees in uncomfortable positions for days on end and sleep deprivation. More severe interrogation methods involve violently shaking prisoners.

The United Nations Committee Against Torture will give its judgement next Monday on Israeli torture practices.

Israel's supreme court is due to meet on May 20 to discuss the legality of Shin Beth's interrogation techniques.

Netanyahu's meeting with Barak, raises possibility of early elections

TEL AVIV (AP) — In a secret meeting with the opposition leader, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discussed the possibility of holding early national elections this fall, two years ahead of schedule, Israeli media reported Thursday.

Mr. Netanyahu and Labour Party leader Ehud Barak met on Tuesday, just before Mr. Netanyahu left for talks in Washington with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on the scope of an

Israeli troop withdrawal in the West Bank.

Mr. Netanyahu's meeting with Mr. Barak appeared to indicate that the prime minister is considering early elections as a way to get out of his current dilemma of either infuriating the United States, Israel's closest ally, or being ousted from office.

The Israeli prime minister's office confirmed the meeting with Mr. Barak but denied that the men discussed early elections.

Both men faced repercussions from members of their respective parties over the meeting. Israeli Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, a member of Mr. Netanyahu's Likud, told Israeli Radio the premier should bring Labour into government as its partner for a national unity government.

Tsali Reshef, a leading member among Labour's liberals, quit the party Thursday. Israeli Army Radio reported, apparently frustrated over Mr. Barak's latest moves.

Vanunu wants back in Italy

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli nuclear technician jailed for revealing secrets about Israel's atomic weapons arsenal has asked to be returned to Italy, where he was kidnapped by Israeli agents 12 years ago, it was revealed Friday.

The Israeli supreme court released some details of an appeal lodged by Mordechai Vanunu, who is serving an 18-year prison term for espionage for giving secrets about Israel's nuclear arsenal to a British newspaper.

Weapons development at the site to The Sunday Times in 1986.

In his appeal, Mr. Vanunu, 43, asked to be returned "to the state from which he was kidnapped" in October 1986, just before The Sunday Times published its report on Israel's atomic arsenal.

The court did not authorise publication of the name of the country but Mr. Vanunu himself revealed during his 1987 trial that he was nabbed in Rome.

Mr. Vanunu also said a foreign country's secret service was linked to his kidnapping by

According to media reports, Mr. Vanunu was lured from London to Rome by a female Mossad agent and then smuggled back to Israel aboard a ship.

Mr. Vanunu, who served 11 years in solitary confinement before the conditions of his imprisonment were relaxed in March, complained that he had been "tormented and tortured" during his interrogation.

He claimed in his appeal that the purpose of the abuse and solitary confinement was to suppress reports about his kidnapp-

Turkish PM says Birdal shooting result of PKK internal dispute

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said the shooting of the country's leading human rights campaigner was due to an internal dispute within the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebel group, newspapers reported on Friday.

"It is understood that it was an internal settling of accounts. Like a misunderstanding between those in the same camp... it is clear they were connected to the PKK," the Milliyet daily quoted Mr. Yilmaz as saying.

Other newspapers carried the same story.

Akin Birdal, head of the Human Rights Association (IHD), was shot six times in the chest and leg by two gunmen in his Ankara office on Tuesday.

The veteran activist had been receiving death threats after purported accusations by captured PKK defector Semdin Sakik were leaked to the press linking Mr. Birdal to the guerrilla group.

Rights groups blamed the shooting on these reports and linked the assassination attempt to a security scandal which exposed state ties to rightist death squads. IHD officials deny any connection to the PKK.

Milliyet quoted Mr. Yilmaz as saying suspicions the shooting was carried out by the state were "unfounded... It was not as we feared," he said.

Mr. Birdal has been an outspoken critic of Turkey's shaky human rights record and frequently accused the state of

U.S. seen unlikely to impose total sanctions

WASHINGTON (R) — The Clinton administration will probably not impose sanctions on foreign companies that are investing in Iran, U.S. officials said on Thursday.

"There will probably be a decision saying this [\$2 billion gas project in Iran involving France's Total and two other firms] is sanctionable but [which] will grant the companies specific waivers" from sanctions, one official told Reuters.

Officials stressed, however, that a formal decision had not yet been made by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"It's premature and we have made no decision," U.S. Under-secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat said through a spokesman when asked for comment.

The Clinton administration is still negotiating with the European Union (EU) over sanctions in an effort to achieve what it considers acceptable cooperation in halting terrorism and curbing the spread of weapons of mass destruction, the goals of a 1996 law under which the sanctions could be imposed.

Testifying in congress on Thursday, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk said a U.S. decision was "imminent." He said congressmen would be briefed on the matter in the next few days by Mr. Eizenstat, who is handling the issue for Ms. Albright.

Other officials said the decision was likely to be

Bill Clinton and European leaders.

Since last year, the Clinton administration has been reviewing whether a \$2 billion deal struck by France's Total, Russia's Gazprom and Malaysia's Petronas to develop a major Iranian oil field violates the law, that allows for sanctions on companies investing more than \$20 million a year in Iran's petroleum industry.

The law is called the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) and is designed to punish the two countries for what the United States considers their unacceptable behaviour.

Europe strongly opposes it, arguing the United States has no right to punish foreign countries in this way.

The EU has threatened to press a case against Washington in the World Trade Organisation and it has become clear that the dispute has huge potential to sour transatlantic ties, as well as relations with Russia.

For months, there has been consensus in the Clinton administration that the total project in Iran constitutes a sanctionable activity under ILSA, but there has been intensive internal debate about how best to react.

The law calls for sanctions, but also gives the administration the flexibility to invoke two kinds of waivers.

One, called a 9C waiver, invokes national security to waive sanctions against particular projects or companies.

The other, called a 4C waiver provides a blanket

to freeze its development aid and recalled its ambassador.

But Russia and France have expressed publicly their scepticism about sanctions and London has condemned the tests and recalled its high commissioner for consultations and Germany has adjourned since the negotiations on development aid for India.

Mr. Campbell stressed that the eight wanted to get India to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which has been signed by 149 countries but only ratified by 13.

"We are going to continue to put pressure on India to get Delhi to join up to the CTBT and the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty]."

The eight will also put political pressure on Pakistan not to follow suit and carry out its own nuclear test," the spokesman added.

G8 leaders will discuss India's nuclear tests at the opening of their summit later Friday which begins with a formal dinner. Afterwards the eight will issue their first statement on the situation in the Serb province of Kosovo and the Middle East peace process.

Since the election of a more moderate president, Mohammad Khatami, in Iran last year, Washington and Tehran have gingerly been reaching out to each other after 20 years of hostility and some U.S. officials said they feared imposing sanctions on the Total deal would be misread in Tehran.

But the Clinton administration will have to make a compelling argument in the U.S. Congress, where there is considerable support for sanctions.

At a U.S. senate foreign relations subcommittee hearing with Mr. Indyk, the panel chairman, Senator Sam Brownback, a Kansas Republican, said he was disturbed by rumours that a "national security waiver" would be granted and sanctions not imposed.

He said Iran's record as a leading sponsor of terrorism argued against a waiver.

Final episode of 'Seinfeld' aired

NEW YORK (AFP) — In one of the longest and best publicised good-byes in television history, the last "Seinfeld" show was broadcast to an audience estimated at up to 80 million people. The 75-minute show, whose plot was cloaked in secrecy during the preceding weeks of tidal-wave media coverage, ended the ninth "Seinfeld" season at the peak of the show's popularity. It was a sitcom of how four self-obsessed Manhattanites — Jerry, Elaine, George and Kramer — did, well, pretty much nothing. Several hundred people gathered in Times Square here — the city in which "Seinfeld" is set although it is shot in Los Angeles — to watch the final episode on the giant Astrovision screen.

Travolta admits debt to Cannes

CANNES (AFP) — The Cannes Film Festival played a major role in getting John Travolta's faltering career back on track, the U.S. star told reporters as he headed for the festival's gala opening. "I feel good at Cannes. I know what I owe the festival, and I'm not sure I'll ever be able to pay back everything it's given me," he said.

After the heady days of "Saturday Night Fever" in 1977, Travolta's career headed steadily for the rocks, but his role in the 1994 Cannes Golden Palm Winner Quentin Tarantino's "Pulp Fiction" restored him to the ranks of Hollywood's biggest earners.

George Michael pleads no contest to lewd conduct charge

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Pop singer George Michael pleaded no contest Thursday to a lewd conduct charge and was ordered to serve 81 hours of community service and undergo sexual counselling. The plea bargain agreement also barred the singer from the Beverly Hills park where he was arrested on Apr. 7 after a plainclothes police officer reportedly saw him masturbate and expose his buttocks in a men's restroom. Michael was not present for the court proceeding, but his attorney Ira Reiner entered the plea on his behalf during this singer's scheduled arraignment at the Beverly Hills Municipal Court.

Carrey 'is nuts' — lawyer

MELBOURNE (AFP) — U.S. comic Jim Carrey admitted having sex with prostitutes and masturbating at the premiere of "Ace Ventura: Pet Detective," a court here heard. Jeffrey Sher, QC, representing Australian Consolidated Publishing (ACP), told the Supreme Court hearing that information he submitted to the court showed Carrey was unstable. "To use a colloquialism, he is nuts," Sher said. Carrey is suing ACP over a Woman's Day article which claimed he sexually harassed actors Jennifer Tilly, Courtney Cox, Alicia Silverstone, Drew Barrymore and Courtney Love. Sher said Carrey made lewd comments about film legend Elizabeth Taylor during a photo shoot at the French resort of Cannes, and admitted in a 1994 magazine article to having sex with prostitutes.

Bowie's Swiss castle up for sale

GENEVA (AFP) — Rock singer David Bowie has put his Swiss castle up for sale and is asking \$3 million for it, it was revealed. Bowie has not stayed in the castle near Lausanne for anything

Odeh, Fayeze appoint

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree appointing Adnan Abu Fayeze as a member of the Upper House of the Jordanian Parliament.

Volume 23 Number 684

Puzzled by King: Wi

King: Wi

security

Cotti: Swiss unde

By Francesca Ciriaci

From the Swiss Press

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein's Saturday afternoon appointment of Adnan Abu Fayeze as a member of the Upper House of the Jordanian Parliament.

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